

THE  
Library Journal

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE  
LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS OF AMERICA AND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

ASSOCIATE EDITORS:

W: E. A. AXON, *Manchester, Eng.*; GEORGE BULLEN, *British Museum*; JAMES T. CLARK, *Advocates', Edinburgh*; P: COWELL, *Liverpool Public*; H. O. COXE, *Bodleian*; JOHN EATON, *U. S. Commissioner of Education*; RICHARD GARNETT, *British Museum*; H: A. HOMES, *N. Y. State (Albany)*; J. D. MULLINS, *Birmingham Public*; S. B. NOYES, *Brooklyn*; F: B. PERKINS, *Boston Public*; W: F. POOLE, *Chicago Public*; A. R. SPOFFORD, *Congressional (Washington)*; JUSTIN WINSOR, *Harvard University*.

*General Editors*: R: R. BOWKER; MELVIL DEWEY (*Sec. A. L. A.*).

*Bibliography*: C: A. CUTTER, *Boston Athenaeum*.

*Pseudonyms*: J. L. WHITNEY, *Boston Public*.

*General European Editor*: H: R. TEDDER (*Sec. L. A. U. K.*), *Athenaeum Club, London*.

VOL. 4. NO. 12.

DECEMBER, 1879.

Contents:

	Page.		Page.
ON THE DETERIORATION OF LIBRARY BINDINGS— <i>Prof. W: R. Nichols</i> . . . . .	435	HOW TO USE THE PUBLIC LIBRARY— <i>W. E. Foster</i> . . . . .	447
ECONOMICAL SUGGESTIONS IN THE PREPARATION OF PRINTED CATALOGUES— <i>C: Welch</i> . . . . .	439	SPECIAL FAVORS TO TRUSTEES OR FACULTY— <i>Melvil Dewey</i> . . . . .	448
LIBRARY FINES— <i>B: Pickman Mann</i> , with notes by others . . . . .	443	LIBRARY PESTS— <i>Justin Winsor</i> . . . . .	448
EDITORIAL NOTES . . . . .	443	LIBRARY HOURS— <i>Melvil Dewey</i> . . . . .	449
The JOURNAL for 1880—Coöperative Cataloguing and the Book registry—Better times—N. Y. Merc. Lib. Removal—Spelling Reform in the JOURNAL—Delays. . . . .		THE NEW BIRMINGHAM LIBRARIES . . . . .	450
COMMUNICATIONS . . . . .	444	LIBRARY OF THE MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, LONDON— <i>T: W: Newton</i> . . . . .	450
The Electric Light and Card Catalogues: <i>R. Garnett</i> —Mr. Cutter's Charging System: <i>C: A. Cutter</i> —On Classification and Alphabetical Cata- loguing: <i>E. C. A.</i> . . . . .		DR. ALLIBONE'S EXCERPTS ON INDEXING . . . . .	451
		"LIBRARIANS IN COUNCIL" . . . . .	452
		MR. GARNETT ON "PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND THEIR CATALOGUES"— <i>C: A. Cutter</i> . . . . .	452
		BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	454
		PSEUDONYMS AND ANONYME . . . . .	457
		NOTES AND QUERIES . . . . .	458
		GENERAL NOTES . . . . .	459
		PUBLISHER'S NOTES . . . . .	461

NEW YORK: OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 13 and 15 Park Row.

LONDON: TRÜBNER & Co., 57 and 59 Ludgate Hill.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, \$5.00—£1.

MONTHLY NUMBERS, 50 cts.—2s.

Entered at the Post-Office at New-York, N. Y., as second-class matter.



## NOTICE TO LIBRARY JOURNAL SUBSCRIBERS.

## THE BOOK REGISTRY.

*It not being found practicable to issue "The Title-slip Registry" under the same subscription price with THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, its publication will be continued independently, under the title of THE BOOK REGISTRY, but at the low price of 25 cents per year, to enable every library to take at least one, and most to take several copies.*

*By its means all new books are ready-catalogued according to Library Association rules, thus saving much trouble and time; and most titles are supplied with the long-desired notes for librarians and readers, according to Association recommendations. The class synopsis makes it doubly valuable.*

*For its use as a card catalogue, by author, title and subject, see Mr. Welch's article in Dec. LIB. JOUR., written without reference to the existence of this periodical, which exactly meets his "Economical Suggestions for Printed Catalogues," particularly for small libraries. It is also a convenient check list at the librarian's desk, and an annotated bulletin for the public at the delivery counter and in the reading-room; accessions can be checked off in blue pencil. For these several purposes, at least 5 copies should be subscribed for, costing but \$1.25; and 10 can be profitably utilized in a wide-awake library.*

*SPECIAL TERMS WILL BE MADE with libraries desiring editions of 100 or more for circulation or sale as a monthly annotated bulletin. Such a bulletin can often, by charging 3 or 5 cts. per copy, be made to pay a profit to the library, while increasing the interest of readers and their consequent support of the library. For a slight additional charge, such editions can be printed with the name of the library and its rules or advertisement occupying the first page.*

*To make it of fuller value, arrangements have been made to issue it promptly the first of each month.*

*Send your subscription of 25 cts., or \$1.25 (5 copies) or \$2.50 (10 copies), or ask terms for a special edition. Induce your readers to become individual subscribers. Remember that coöperation cannot be had without coöperating, and that talking about desired library improvements is of no use unless such enterprises are supported when they are undertaken. Address*

P. O. Box 4,295.

THE BOOK REGISTRY, 13 &amp; 15 Park Row, New York.

## The Library Journal for 1880.

The fifth volume of the LIBRARY JOURNAL commences January, 1880, and runs through the year.

Among new features will be select annotated lists, by the highest authorities, of recommended books on special topics of the time—very valuable to libraries and book-sellers.

It will also be made of especial interest to private book-collectors, whose support is solicited.

The JOURNAL is the official organ of both the American and English Library Association, and should be in every library. The smallest can least afford to be without it, because it teaches how to accomplish most with the least money.

It will hereafter be published with more regularity and promptness.

Subscription price, \$5.00 per annum. A commission allowed on *bona fide* new subscriptions, but not to subscription agencies simply transferring subscribers from our own books. Advertisements, \$20 per page; low terms for contracts. Sample copies sent post-paid for 10 cts. Address

## THE LIBRARY JOURNAL,

P. O. Box 4,295.

13 &amp; 15 Park Row, New York.

*Some copies can yet be had of the full Transactions and Proceedings of the Boston Conference, including all the papers on "Fiction in Libraries and the Reading of Children," price, bound in paper, \$3. Should be carefully read by every teacher and parent.*

# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

## ON THE DETERIORATION OF LIBRARY BINDINGS.

BY PROFESSOR WM. RIPLEY NICHOLS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

[Read at the Saratoga meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, August, 1879.]

SOME time since a librarian of my acquaintance brought to me the backs of a number of books, the leather of which had, in some instances, deteriorated to such an extent as to readily crumble to a brown powder when scratched lightly, as with a finger nail. My opinion was asked as to the part that coal-gas or the products of its combustion played in the destruction of the leather.

I confess that I had supposed the matter settled long since, having in memory a discussion in the English journals of some ten years ago. When I found, however, that a chemist as eminent as Dr. Wolcott Gibbs doubted the influence of coal-gas in the matter, I felt that there was room for further investigation. Although I have not done as yet all that I should like to do, or indeed all that I expect to do, in the matter, I desire to state the results which I have obtained in the hope that there may be others here who can throw some light upon the subject.

I may first recall what has been done by others. As long ago as 1854 Dr. Letheby made a report to the city authorities of London, in which he took the ground, which he afterwards on other occasions maintained, that the destruction of bind-

ings in libraries and the destruction of textile fabrics in warehouses, where gas was burned continuously and in large quantities, was due to the products of the combustion of imperfectly purified gas. He noticed that the water produced by burning gas is always acid, and will rot leather, paper, cotton, and linen.

Dr. Odling, in a lecture before the British Association of Gas Managers, June, 1868, maintains that the amount\* of sulphur in coal-gas is of no great consequence, and shows by mathematical calculation that the amount of sulphuric acid formed is extremely small compared with the amount of air through which it is diffused. In spite of this, every chemist knows that sulphuric acid is formed when coal-gas is burned, and that articles of galvanized iron or of zinc, when exposed to the lamp-flame, become corroded with formation of sulphate of zinc. This fact is noted with some quantitative statements by Mr. Charles Heisch, F. C. S., Superintending Gas Examiner to the Corporation of the City of London.† From a burner consuming one-half a foot per hour, the products of combustion of which passed into

\* Chemical news, v. 23 (1868), p. 65.

† London Journal of gas lighting, 1874, p. 856.

a zinc chimney, he collected in six weeks three-quarters of a pound of sulphate of zinc.

In the *Chemical news* for 1877, v. 36, p. 179, Professor A. H. Church states that he found in decayed leather from the backs of books which had been on the upper shelves of an apartment lighted by gas,—

Free sulphuric acid,	6.21 per cent.
Combined sulphuric acid,	2.21 "

He accepts, without hesitation, the theory that the decay is due to the sulphuric acid formed by the combustion of the gas. In the same volume of the *Chemical news* there is a paper on the subject by Mr. George E. Davis, who examined the leather of some books which had been in daily use in a large office in Manchester, from 1855-1858; after that time till August, 1877, they remained uncovered on a shelf near the ceiling of the same room. The books had been strongly bound in rough calf, and had red basil lettering-pieces. Upon knocking the books the leather of the backs came off as a mixture of dust and small pieces, which was very acid to test-paper. The leather from the back was treated with water, and the aqueous solution found to contain

	<i>Per cent. by weight of leather taken.</i>
Combined sulphuric acid,	2.847
Free " "	1.920

The leather underneath the lettering-piece contained

Combined sulphuric acid,	0.39 per cent.
Free " "	0.76 "

The red basil lettering piece contained

Ammonia,	1.28 per cent.
Combined sulphuric acid,	0.87 "
Free " "	1.04 "

In 1878 Dr. Gibbs examined books in the Boston Public Library, in the Boston Athenæum, in the Harvard College Library and in the Astor Library in New York City,—in some of which gas is used and in others not. He arrived at the con-

clusion,\* "that there was no sufficient evidence" that the products of the combustion of coal-gas caused the trouble, and seemed inclined to consider the fault to lie in the tanning of the leather. He says, "I analyzed a number of samples of the leather in my own laboratory and find no free acid whatever."

My own experience is as follows: I have had a large number of samples of leather in all stages of decay. I found, as others have done, that *morocco* is but little affected, while Russia and calf are badly acted upon, and ordinary sheep is also attacked. Qualitative and quantitative examinations showed that, in a general way, the more the leather was decayed the more marked was the acid taste and acid reaction on test-papers, and the larger was the amount of sulphuric acid to be found in the aqueous extract. Further, I found that the aqueous extract always contained ammonia, and although the solution had an acid reaction and required a certain quantity of alkali to neutralize it, in no instance, I think, was the acid in greater quantity than that which would be required for the acid sulphate of ammonium. I examined a number of samples of fresh leather; the aqueous extracts were only slightly acid, not sufficiently so to affect the taste, and contained only a minute amount of sulphuric acid in combination.

I will now give some of the results of quantitative analyses which have been made in my laboratory. The method employed was to soak the leather with successive portions of water until chloride of barium ceased to produce a precipitate, using at first, at any rate, a temperature less than that at which the leather balls together. A portion of the extract was acidulated with chlorhydric acid, and the

\* In a letter to W. W. Greenough, Esq., dated Aug. 5, 1878, and published in the *LIB. JOUR.*, v. 3, p. 229.

sulphuric acid precipitated as sulphate of barium. Another portion was distilled with carbonate of sodium and the ammonia determined by the Nessler re-agent. The results were calculated into percentages of the original leather.

Under this treatment, samples of new leather of good quality gave the following results:

	<i>Sulphuric acid (SO<sub>3</sub>)</i>	<i>Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)</i>
Uncolored Russia, 0.25 per cent.	0.14 per cent.	
Colored Russia, 0.42 "	0.21 "	
Sheep, oak-tanned, 0.21 "	0.08 "	

A sample of *well-worn* but not *decayed* sheep was taken from the side of a family Bible, printed in 1814, and presumably in the original binding. The book had never been exposed to gas. The leather was found to contain:

Total sulphuric acid, 1.42 per cent.

A sample of very rotten Russia, which was very strongly acid to taste and to test-paper, contained:

Total sulphuric acid, 8.4 per cent.

Another lot, scraped from a number of books, contained:

Total sulphuric acid, 10.6 per cent.  
Ammonia, 3.1 "

In this case the "acidity" of the extract was determined. The greater part of the acidity was due to the presence of sulphuric acid, either "free" or as an "acid salt." Reckoned as sulphuric acid it amounted to 4.2 per cent.

Another sample contained:

Total sulphuric acid, 6.4 per cent.  
Free or an "acid salt," 2.4 "  
Ammonia, 2.4 "  
Lime, 0.1 "  
Alumina, No more than a trace.

These determinations indicated to me that the sulphuric acid was in considerable measure present as sulphate or acid sulphate of ammonium. I then performed the following experiment:

A quantity—about 20 grams—of the rotten leather was carefully extracted with

water, and after dialyzing the extract several times and allowing the dialyzed liquid to crystallize, I obtained about a gram of white crystals, which were but slightly acid to test-liquids, and were found to contain:

Sulphuric acid (SO<sub>3</sub>), 56.43 per cent.  
Ammonia, 23.20 "  
Non-volatile matter, 10.23 "

The non-volatile matter contained something insoluble in chlorhydric acid, also some lime and an amount of sulphuric acid equivalent to 4.01 per cent. of the original crystals. Leaving out this sulphuric acid which remained in the "ash," the composition of the portion driven off by heat would be:

Sulphuric acid (SO<sub>3</sub>), 58.39 per cent.  
Ammonia, 25.84 "  
Water and loss, 15.77 "  
100.00 "

The theory for the normal sulphate of ammonium is:

Sulphuric acid (SO<sub>3</sub>), 60.60 per cent.  
Ammonia, 25.76 "  
Water, 13.64 "  
100.00 "

It would seem, therefore, that, in this case, the crystalline salt obtained was mainly the normal sulphate of ammonium. In other cases, however, the impure crystals obtained evidently contained some of the acid salt.

In view of these facts, it would certainly seem that bindings of Russia, calf, or sheep, when exposed to the products of the combustion of illuminating gas, do absorb sulphuric acid. It is difficult, otherwise, to account for the large amount, 8 and 10 per cent., which is found in the rotten leather. A small amount might come from sulphate of lime in the leather, from sulphate of iron used in staining the backs, and from other sources. but the amount in the samples of new leather which I have examined is very small, and the largest amount that I have ever found, except



where I knew the leather had been exposed to gas, was in the sides of a dilapidated copy of Athanasius Kircher's *Magneticum Naturæ Regnum*. The history of the binding was unknown as well as its age; it was very "greasy," and from it water took out 4.9 per cent. sulphuric acid. It was somewhat acid to taste, but it is not unlikely that the book had, in the course of its long history, been exposed to sulphurous acid from the combustion of soft coal, or, indeed, to gas itself. The same leather contained 2.2 per cent. of ammonia, but this could easily be accounted for. As in other cases, more or less ammonia may come from the air, from the decay of the paste, from the leather itself, and some, no doubt, from the gas in certain cases.

With reference to the source of the sulphuric acid, it has been objected that the sulphur compounds burn mainly to sulphurous acid and not to sulphuric. I analyzed some of the deposit which formed on a galvanized iron plate which received the water condensed on the under surface of a "water-bath" when the gas was first lighted. I found the salt present to be a sulphate, and could obtain no evidence of a sulphite.

As it has been suggested that the alum in the paste might explain the sulphuric acid, I took some of the scraped backs and examined a portion containing the paste and paper of the back as well as some leather. The results were:

	Per cent.
Total sulphuric acid,	3.55
Alumina (with trace of iron) only	0.42

It has further been suggested that it is the fault of the leather. I cannot prove that this is not so, and as a part of the investigation I desire to examine some decayed backs which have never been exposed to gas. This I have not been able to do. Although I have been promised such backs I have never received

them. I may say in this connection, that some of the books which I have examined were bound by a man now engaged in the same library, and he claims to know that the leather was good when put on.

I think the evidence collected throws such suspicion on the gas burned that one would be justified in insisting upon better ventilation, and in recommending that the burners should be arranged, when practicable, so that the products of combustion should be drawn by a ventilating chimney or pipe away from each burner, without mixing with the air of the room. In one of the London libraries, referred to by Dr. Letheby, better ventilation was determined upon, and, as I understand it, with gratifying results.

To settle finally the vexed question, I have laid out the following plan: I propose to have a set of books bound at the same time by the same person, using the same leather and paste. These books are, some of them, to be put in the most exposed situation, one of them to be carefully examined now, one after a year's interval, another after two years, and so on. Meanwhile two of the same set are to be put where they will not be exposed to gas, but where they will quietly grow old. I believe this, coupled with an examination of the air, which I hope to make, will settle the question.

It should be said that the books which are most decayed have been upon the upper shelves of the library, where they are subjected to a high temperature, and it is of course *possible* that the disintegration of the leather has given an opportunity for the absorption of the vapor of sulphuric acid and ammonia, rather than that the absorption is the cause of the disintegration.

\*.\* The writer of the above paper would be pleased to receive for further research, any samples of leather binding whose history can be well ascertained.

## ECONOMICAL SUGGESTIONS IN THE PREPARATION OF PRINTED CATALOGUES.

BY CHARLES WELCH, SUB-LIBRARIAN OF THE CORPORATION LIBRARY, LONDON.

IT would be superfluous on my part to show that a catalogue is a vital necessity to a library, second only in importance to the possession of the books themselves. I will therefore content myself with again repeating the oft-quoted remark of Mr. Carlyle: "A library is not worth anything without a catalogue; it is a Polyphemus without any eye in his head, and you must front the difficulties, whatever they may be, of making proper catalogues." The present paper is put forward to indicate a method of meeting some of these difficulties.

In his article on library catalogues, in the American Library Report, Mr. Cutter says: "A catalogue is designed to answer certain questions about a library, and that is the best which answers the most questions with the least trouble to the asker. It may, however, for reasons of economy, decline to answer certain classes of inquiries with very little practical loss of utility, and different libraries may properly make different selections of questions to be answered." Trustworthy statistics of the questions asked from day to day would be a useful guide in deciding upon the form of catalogue best adapted to each library, and a mass of very curious and valuable information of this kind might be acquired if a record or *log-book* of such enquiries were kept by our principal libraries.

For our present purpose it may perhaps be sufficient to divide readers into three classes: 1. Those reading for amusement; 2. Those wanting a particular book or the works of a given author; 3. Those seeking for information on a given subject; and it may further be assumed, in the absence

of the above-mentioned statistics, that classes two and three are about equal in point of numbers. In considering what catalogues are indispensable to a library, it is obvious that the wants of the two latter classes of readers only need be considered, as, if these be satisfied in either case, those of the first-mentioned class are equally provided for. It may well be borne in mind that a man who asks for a definite book requires a minimum amount of attention, and is entitled to be served with the least possible delay; on the other hand, a reader who is investigating a subject will be best served by an exhaustive catalogue, and is ready to afford the time necessary for consulting it efficiently. For this reason alone an alphabetical list of authors is a first necessity in a library catalogue, and most libraries possess either a catalogue or index of authors.

For small libraries which cannot afford a large outlay on printing, the best economy is to print a short-title hand-list of authors, which will satisfy three-fourths of their readers, can be multiplied at a cheap rate to provide for home use and the wear and tear of the reading-room, and can also be reprinted at frequent intervals without a great expense. After providing a hand-list such as I have described, a full-title catalogue on cards of an exhaustive character may be economically produced by the following plan: Let the titles be set up in the most extended form adopted by the library, and printed on slip upon one side of the paper; these, when laid down upon cards, will form a card catalogue possessing the advantage of compactness and legibility of print. The cards can then be arranged so as to form a diction-

ary catalogue of the most comprehensive kind, or upon any other system which may be preferred. In every case where a cross-reference is necessary a card bearing the full title is inserted, the system admitting of the multiplication of full titles to an extent which is impossible in a printed catalogue, and which would be equally impracticable if every title were in manuscript. Before placing the cards the heading under which they are to be arranged must be added in ms., and that part of the title to which it refers underlined. Thus all concerned in the production of a book, either as co-authors, editors, revisors, commentators, translators, or illustrators, may receive due recognition; the whole literary and personal history of a man, as represented in the library, may be seen at a glance, and under the name of an artist—George Cruikshank for example—will be found not only the works published under his name, but also a number of his other productions, which it would be otherwise difficult to recall. In the same way works that treat of many subjects may be placed under each, and all information, including biographies of authors, etc., foreign to the main subject of the work, may be made useful to the fullest extent. This repetition of titles or *cross-entries* enables the reader to judge for himself at a glance as to the information afforded by a particular entry, whereas the *cross-references* of a printed book catalogue too often consist of a mere string of volumes which only serve to tire his patience.

It may safely be asserted that a small library furnished with the hand-list and card catalogue above-mentioned is better provided than by possessing a book catalogue of the most costly type yet produced. Larger libraries may also print a short-title hand-list of subjects with advantage, or the two hand-lists may be printed together; in the case of circulating libraries a *subject* list is the more useful. In the

case of libraries which possess catalogues out of date and become almost useless by the accumulation of supplements, the material already exists for providing a new catalogue which can never grow out of date, the only cost being for material—that of the cards and paste required; and for labor—that of two assistants, one to paste, and the other to write, as headings to the cards, the words in the title which have been previously underscored by the cataloguer. The general direction of the work and classification of the cards is best performed by one person, and may be accomplished with the assistance above-named in the midst of the daily duties to be discharged in a public library. If a library already possesses a good printed catalogue down to a certain date, the card catalogue may be used as a continuation for incorporating the accessions, together with any catalogue of special collections which may have been published, into one whole. In all large libraries the time will come sooner or later when the catalogue can no longer consist of a single whole; a weighty objection to printing the catalogue of the British Museum would be removed if some effective plan was devised for dealing with its current accessions. I may perhaps be pardoned for suggesting that by printing accession-lists from a given date, say the year 1880, and arranging them upon cards as described above, a successful solution of the difficulty may be found. The extent of the catalogue to be printed could then be ascertained, and an immediate boon could be afforded to readers by the provision of a subject-classification of the current literature to be found in the national collection. It now remains to justify my choice of the catalogues which I have described, as the most economical catalogues for the service of a library. First, as to efficiency, enough has probably been said to show that a theoretically perfect catalogue is attainable by this



method to an extent that cannot be approached by the book catalogue, and I will not stay to note how annotated book-lists, contents of encyclopædias (such as the lists of principal articles with authors' names in the *Cyclopædia Britannica*), articles from periodicals, etc., etc., may all be utilized without any expense for printing. Secondly, as to cost, the expense of printing is limited to one full title for each book, and in the case of works with known authors one short title; the first is incurred *once and for all*, the second is frequently repeated. Now what is the expense of a book catalogue? It must contain a full title of every work, and this title must be repeated, either in an index or as a cross-reference, at least once in almost every case, and in many instances additional references must be made to subjects and persons, the expense increasing at every attempt to attain greater completeness. The book catalogue becomes less useful

after the publication of every supplement, and when another edition becomes necessary none of the expense of the old edition will help to defray the cost of the new. Besides the ultimate saving gained by dispensing with book catalogues, an immediate economy is effected by printing in slip, as any printer will at once admit. In conclusion, I would advocate the use of card catalogues with printed slips as being economical in production, satisfactory to the reader, and a satisfaction to the librarian, who is encouraged by the reflection that the labor he bestows is not soon to become useless, but forms a vital part of a work which will grow in usefulness day by day.\*

\* *The Book Registry*, issued during 1878 as *The Title-Slip Registry*, was planned with this object in view, and furnishes at a trifling cost, titles and annotations as suggested by Mr. Welch. The small libraries have not as yet made this use of it to any considerable extent.—Ed. LIB. JOUR.

### LIBRARY FINES.

BY B. PICKMAN MANN, LIBRARIAN OF THE CAMBRIDGE ENTOMOLOGICAL CLUB,  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

LIBRARY fines may be considered in at least two relations: in relation to the library and in relation to the persons who make use of the library. Their object may be either to increase the revenue of the library, to afford a gentle reminder and corrective to persons who keep books longer than the term allowed, or as exemplary punishments for the grievous offense of keeping books too long. Their proper object, I think, is a combination of the former two, a gentle corrective of improper retention and a means of furnishing so much revenue as is needed to save the library from incurring expense in recovering possession of its books. The object of

this paper is to call attention to an abuse of library fines and to a duty which librarians owe to their readers, at least in those cases where library fines are imposed. One of the oldest professors in Harvard College told me several years ago that he borrowed a book from the library of the college for his own use, and carried it to his work-room in the college buildings. As any person may do occasionally, he forgot, amidst the many books he was using, that this must be returned at a certain date, and so the book lay on his table for months. He had been accustomed, in the use of libraries amongst which he had lived previously, to the fol-

lowing practice: If a book was kept too long, the library sent a messenger to get it and bring it back, and the delinquent was obliged to pay a fine of 25 cents, as compensation for the trouble and expense to the library. Under the present circumstances, however, this professor finally returned the book, and was informed that he had a fine to pay of, if I remember rightly, sixteen dollars. I regard this as an instance of flagrant abuse by the library.

How practicable it may be for a library to recall overdue books depends upon the charging system which is used by the library, yet I imagine that every library can, and that most libraries do, keep such a record of books issued as to be able to recall books overdue without great delay. If the records of issue are posted in a ledger they can be examined at periodic intervals, to discover if any books are overdue. Supposing the extreme time allowed for the retention of books is four weeks, then the ledger account or the card files can be looked over once in two weeks, *i. e.*, at intervals of time one-half the extreme time allowed for retention. Every book found overdue can be sent for, either by messenger or by postal card, and a uniform fine, sufficient to cover expense and trouble, can be assessed upon the delinquent. This is not only good policy for the library, in guarding against the danger of loss of the book by too long neglect, but is no more than simple justice to the borrower, who may and probably does neglect to return the book through a pardonable temporary oversight. It is of little use, in these cases, to mark the date of borrowing in the book, for the person who would forget he had the book would forget also to look in it for the date of its return. This notice to the borrower, while

no more than just at any time, seems especially demanded where, as in some libraries, the fines are very large. For instance, I have known them to be as high as ten cents a day in a library which does not send notices, except occasionally, and then only as a matter of courtesy. A delay of ten days in the return of a book may easily subject the delinquent to a fine of greater value than the book, and lead him to destroy it, so that he may need only to pay for the book instead of returning it.

The custom of the Boston Athenæum is suggested as much better,—to limit the amount of a fine to the cost of the book to the library.—C: A. C.

This assumes that the trouble of buying and cataloguing will be offset by the difference between a new copy and the old partly worn out. It would be still better to charge retail, for we have known a case where a reader paid the fine (what it cost the library), and thus secured a foreign book, without delay, duty free, and at the wholesale price at which the library bought, a fresh, new copy. This is as wrong as the high fine, and the golden mean seems to limit cost to full retail price. Even then the fine should run on unless paid when notified, or our Yankee boys will buy their books in this way through the library, and get unlimited credit.—M. D.

Perhaps the true solution would be to limit the fine to the price (retail) of the book *plus* ten cents "costs," as the lawyers put it. This makes good to the library not only the actual cost of the book, but some of its expenses in replacing and re-entering, while avoiding any temptation for the reader to buy books at the expense of the library.—R: R. B.

## THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

DECEMBER, 1879.

*Communications for the JOURNAL, exchanges, and editors' copies, should be addressed EDITORS LIBRARY JOURNAL, 13 & 15 Park Row (P. O. Box 4295), New York, except material for special departments, which should be forwarded direct to departmental editors.*

*Library catalogues, reports, regulations, sample blanks, and other library appliances, should be sent to MELVIL DEWEY, Sec. A. L. A., General Offices American Library Association, 30 Hawley Street (P. O. Box 260), Boston.*

*European matter may be sent in to the care of H. R. TEDDER, Sec. L. A. U. K., Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, S. W., London.*

*Remittances and orders for subscriptions and advertisements should be addressed to THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, 13 & 15 Park Row (P. O. Box 4295), New York. Remittances should be made by draft on New York, P. O. order, or registered letter.*

*The Editors are not responsible for the views expressed in contributed articles or communications, nor for the style of spelling, capitalization, etc., in articles whose authors request adherence to their own styles.*

*Subscribers are entitled to advertise books wanted, or duplicates for sale and exchange, at the nominal rate of 10 cents per line (regular rate, 25 cents); also to advertise for situations or assistance to the extent of five lines free of charge.*

WITH this issue, and with the year 1879, closes the fourth volume of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, and if the publisher is not as yet able to look on his balance sheet with satisfaction, let us hope that the balance in the reader's accounting is on the right side. The appeal elsewhere to friends of the JOURNAL to make a united effort for its final success with the opening of the new year will, we trust, not be unheeded; the difficulties in the way of the JOURNAL are the difficulties in the way of library progress in general, and whenever in any given library ground is gained for the one it is gained also for the other. The editors acknowledge great satisfaction in their intercourse with the wide-awake element of library work and in the results of that intercourse, and their one hope is that the JOURNAL has done and is doing something to widen the circle of that element. The chief endeavor of the friends of library progress should be to convince the smaller libraries that it is they most of all who cannot afford not to be in line with the leaders. New features, particularly the special lists of recommended books, will perhaps do something more to recommend the JOURNAL itself to them for 1880.

VOL. IV., No. 12.

THE progress toward co-operative cataloguing during the year has been marked. Shortly before the beginning of this year, *The Publisher's weekly* adopted the rules of the American Library Association for its bibliographical list, and combined with it the recommended annotations. This made possible the issue of a monthly *Registry* of all new books, catalogued over for all libraries, according to the A. L. A. rules, and with the long-desired notes, which has been covered by the same subscription price with the LIBRARY JOURNAL. The publisher does not find it possible to continue this arrangement, but *The Book registry*, as it will now be called, will be issued at a minimum price, so as to make it a pioneer of co-operative cataloguing and A. L. A. work in all libraries, even the very smallest. Mr. Welch's article in this number should be read in this connection. We are glad to be able to note also that such arrangements have been made for the printing of the A. L. A. Catalog, as will secure its issue, in all probability, in 1880, which, with the hoped-for issue of Poole's Index and of the final volume of the American Catalogue, will make that a notable date in bibliography. Let us hope that the year may be further remarkable for steps at least toward printing the British Museum Catalogue (see Mr. Garnett's letter elsewhere), and for some co-operative arrangements as to cataloguing methods between the English and the American Associations.

THE libraries have been suffering so severely from the hard times, that the return of better times should give them a new spirit. They have had too generally to cripple themselves for want of funds in every department of their work. Now that people in general are beginning to have more money, there should be less difficulty in obtaining more liberal appropriations, and the subscription libraries will also certainly feel the change. Let it be then remembered by trustees and directors and subscribers and the dear public itself, that quite as important as new books is good work, and that the librarian, as well as other people, is worthy of his hire. Salaries which were liberal recompense to the men who were chiefly watchmen to keep the public out and the books in, are altogether inadequate for the trained intelligence and executive vigor now necessary in libraries. And an extra assistant, in many a library, will be worth more than hundreds of new books.

THE removal of the Mercantile Library, now assured by the actual purchase of a site, will give a decided impetus to library matters in New-York City, where the real benefits of a great public

library are still matters of hearsay only. In constructing a new building, from the ground up, the Association, with abundant means at its demand, will have an opportunity seldom offered, of which it is to be hoped full advantage will be taken. The land is of such limitations that neither Prof. Winsor's nor Mr. Poole's ideal form of library can be built, and the Association must grapple with the problem of a building having several stories instead of unlimited ground space. But as this must be a frequent condition of great libraries, the result in New-York will be the more interesting on that account. The construction, let us hope, will be in view, not only of the latest library principles, but of the ultimate use of the building as a *public*, that is a free, library, which it will, in all probability, finally become. Of another piece of evidence that New-York must and will possess such a privilege, we are not at this writing at liberty to speak.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL is taken severely to task by an exchange for its inconsistency as well as its "eccentricity" in the matter of spelling. The rule having well been laid down that the *differentia* of individual contributors or special editors would be followed in this particular, certain apparent inconsistencies must result. Sometimes the inconsistencies are real, as in two cases referred to by our good friend the [New-York] *Examiner*, where the slip of the printer and the oversight of the general editors permit a *ue* to encumber Mr. Cutter's "catalog," or drop the *ue* from an unreformed librarian's catalogue. Within the department of Bibliography,—in quoting or indexing which the editor's own heading is of course followed,—the *ue* is or is not used, according to whether it is in a quotation from one of the unregenerate reports or in the special editor's comment thereon, so that the two spellings may occur in the same line. The philosophers (or filosofers) would explain to our critics that this is one of the evils of the transitorial period, and that "the times are very evil" our compositors would doubtless agree.

No reports from the American Library Association or of the monthly meetings of the Library Association of the United Kingdom had reached us up to going to press. Those of the November and December meetings of the latter will both appear in the January issue. The difficulty of obtaining promptly the reports of the A. L. A. has been one of the causes of delays heretofore, which we hope will be obviated another year.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### ELECTRIC LIGHT—CARD CATALOGUE.

BRITISH MUSEUM, October 29, 1879.

... The electric light is now in full operation at the Reading-Room of the British Museum. After several preliminary experiments, privately conducted, the public were admitted for the first time on October 22. The light has so far been a success, not indeed quite perfect, but practically adequate for its object. There is an unsteadiness, generally insignificant, but occasionally amounting to a considerable fluctuation; and a noise at times, which, however, is seldom loud enough to be annoying. Apart from these inconveniences, which seem to be diminishing, the light is very satisfactory; clear, soft, and beautiful, and has not hitherto proved trying to the eyes. The system employed is that of Dr. Siemens, and the arrangements have been made under his personal direction. The light is afforded by four lamps, suspended at about 45 feet from the ground, and therefore removed from the actual gaze of readers. The total illuminating power is 16,000 candles. The room is kept open till 7, or three hours longer than usual at this time of year. Up to the present time about 250 readers on the average have availed themselves of the opportunity of remaining, and about 70 have been admitted after the ordinary hours. No books, of course, can be brought into the Reading-Room after dark, as the Library is not lighted; but, besides the Reference collection and the books they are actually using, readers have the use of such as are already reserved for them in the Reading-Room. The Museum authorities are perfectly satisfied with the success of the evening opening so far, and have every disposition to make it a permanent institution, but there are only funds for a limited period, and its continuance must depend upon the liberality of the Treasury.

I see from the Trustees' Report of the Boston Public Library (p. 378) that the inconvenience of a card catalogue is beginning to make itself felt. I have always thought that card catalogues, though very suitable for small libraries, must ultimately break down by their own weight in large collections. An arrangement of the slips in volumes is, I am sure, preferable in the abstract, although no doubt more expensive. One cannot, unfortunately, convert a card catalogue into a book catalogue without much trouble and expense, as we are finding, *mutatis mutandis*, at the Museum. Here our ms. catalogue is becoming so unwieldy as to threaten a break-down. We can, if the Treasury will let us, set bounds to its increase by resorting to print for the future: but we cannot convert the ms. titles

we already have into print without a considerable expenditure. Nothing but print, I am persuaded, can serve a very large library in the long run. Where printing is out of the question, something might be done by resorting to the Remington type-writer, as its small capitals, with no strokes above or below the line, pack into a very moderate compass.

RICHARD GARNETT.

MR. CUTTER'S CHARGING SYSTEM.

BOSTON, Dec. 1, 1879.

At the end of Mr. Schwartz's paper on "A combined charging system" (*LIB. JOUR.*, 4: 277), the editors added the note, "Mr. Cutter is introducing a system on a similar plan into his library." This was not exact. It would have been more correct to say, "Mr. Cutter six months ago introduced a dissimilar plan into his library." The note has occasioned my receiving a number of inquiries, to which I will reply now.

The plan was designed solely to meet the wants of the Athenæum library. It answers all the questions which we wish to have answered. It would not suit libraries of a different character, which wish to have an entirely different set of answers. It would have to be modified, for instance, if delinquent notices were sent as soon as the book is overdue, instead of once a month, as with us.

The plan is this. A pocket of stout linen paper, 10 cm. high by 9 cm. wide, pasted inside the back cover of each book, holds two cards, each 5 cm. wide, one of manila, 15 cm. long, and the other white, 12½ cm. long. The manila is ruled from side to side into 18 spaces, 36 on both sides; the white into 15, which latter are again divided by a lengthwise line into 30 spaces, or 60 on both sides. Across one end of each is written the class and author number of the book, and the author's name and a prominent word or two of the title. When taking out books the borrower takes the cards from the pocket, signs his name on the first vacant line of the manila card, and hands book and cards to the clerk. The clerk by a glance sees that the numbers on book and card are the same, delivers the book to the reader, stamps the date on the white card, and drops it into that reader's place in the alphabetical box of borrowers, and the manila card into another box. At her leisure, she, or another clerk if it is a busy day, arranges the manilas in the order of their class-numbers and distributes them in a case in which all the manila cards of books out are arranged in that order.

We have then two series of cards, manila in class order, white in the order of readers. The white cards show how many books each borrower has out, what they are, and when they were taken. The

manila cards enable us to find at once whether a given book is out and who has it, and also what books are out in a given class. Counting them just before they are distributed in the case gives the circulation for the day classified. The borrower's signature prevents any denial that he has had the book. The manila cards also enable us to take stock without calling in the books, and to do so very easily; for, as the cards are arranged in the order of the classes, it takes hardly any time to ascertain what books are legitimately absent from the shelves. The other books absent are the "missing" books. (When a book is laid aside to go to the binder, its manila is taken out from the pocket and kept in a special box; when the book is sent to the binder, the card is marked with the binder's name, and distributed with the other cards of books out.)\*

When a borrower returns his book, the clerk picks out the white card from its place in the box, stamps on it the date of return, compares that with date of issue to see if any fine is due for overtime, collects the fine, if there is one, puts the card in the pocket and the book on a wire-guarded shelf. From this shelf it can be taken only by the clerk, who picks out the manila card from the class-case and puts it in the pocket, after which the book is ready to be placed upon its shelf. The whole process, though it takes long to describe, is performed very quickly by trained fingers. It will be seen that the clerk does not have to do any writing, that the borrower writes only his own name, and does not have to carry a library card about with him. I should add that I do not charge by the day of the month, but by the day of the year, which very much simplifies the calculation of fines.

The white cards are kept standing on end in boxes 5.2 cm. wide and 30 cm. long. For every borrower a zinc guide, 5 by 13½ cm., is headed with the borrower's name and address (written with platonic chlorid). A colored card, 5 by 12½, similarly headed, contains records of fines due, bulletins delivered, persons permitted to use the borrower's card, and anything else which it may be necessary to record. These colored cards are dropped in in front of the zincs, and the white cards in front of them. Each box will hold zincs for 200 borrowers.

The reason for preferring this to a case with pigeon-holes is that it is perfectly elastic, allowing of instant and endless addition and subtraction of new borrowers. It is the movable location as

\* The manila cards were first used Jan. 1, 1879. The use of the white cards, long ago planned, was deferred till I could be sure of the success of the first experiment. It will commence Jan. 1, 1880.



compared with the fixed, the card catalog as compared with the pasted. It is in fact a card catalog of the *books out*. And this suggests at once that all the rest of the white cards, if kept in boxes and arranged in alphabetical order by authors (which could easily be done, as they are headed with the author's name), would form a card catalog of the *books in*, or, in other words, an INDICATOR. I have not yet decided whether to use them in this way or not. The objection to it is the usual one with an indicator,—the cost of running it; that is, of putting the white slips in place as fast as the corresponding books are returned. There would be no expense for taking them out when the book goes out, because that would be done by the borrowers, who would give them to the runners as call-slips. The advantage, on the other hand, lies in the saving of the time of the runners, who could not be asked to go for a book that was not in, because when the book is out, the call-slip is out of the drawer and in its place in the borrower's card-box, and the equal saving of the time of borrowers, who would never wait in vain for books, because all that they *could* send for would necessarily be in.

As it would come to be used as a catalog it would be necessary, in order to make it satisfactory, to insert a large number of title and other references on colored cards, so that they should not be taken out as call-slips. It is plainly a plan much better adapted to a small library and circulation than to a larger one; and with a disorderly or a very ignorant clientele there would be considerable danger of misplacement and loss of the cards.

C: A. CUTTER.

#### ON CLASSIFICATION AND ALPHABETICAL CATALOGUING.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Oct. 25, 1879.

I HAVE only recently found leisure to read, in the LIBRARY JOURNAL, the papers to which I listened with great interest last summer. I consider the July-August number worth the subscription to the entire volume. It contains the clearest and most emphatic recognition of the necessity of *system*, either in the catalogue or on the shelves, that I have met. From the preference heretofore shown for an alphabetical arrangement of subjects, I had begun to fear we should never get out of the A B C of cataloguing; though I was myself unable to comprehend how a librarian could dispense with system, if he would know the character and extent of his collection.

In saying this I have no reflections to cast on those who are making the best of a defective method, or rather the absence of method—an in-

heritance from the early days when an alphabetical list of titles, or such a transposition of titles as would give some indication of subjects, was all that was attempted. Had the same labor and ingenuity bestowed in making the alphabet serve a purpose for which it is quite inadequate, been devoted to maturing a scheme of classification, we ought now to be far advanced on the highway to perfection in cataloguing. With either Mr. Perkins' or Mr. Cutter's plan consistently carried out, it will be possible for the average reader to know when he has exhausted the resources of any given library in any given direction, without resorting to an interminable string of cross-references for the collaterals of his special theme.

It is sometimes thought conclusive as to superiority of the alphabetical arrangement of subjects in a catalogue, to say that it is as plain as A B C. That depends on who is to use it, and for what purpose. Granted that one who has the whole range of literature at his finger's end, finds no difficulty in its use, it does not follow that those who are in any sense learners—as will be found true of the majority of those who resort to public libraries—will see no objection to it. If, as we all claim, the library is an educational agency, should not the catalogue be constructed with reference to the same end? And can system be ignored in its compilation? To illustrate: For a learned professor, who is quite familiar with the general features of the globe, but desirous of information regarding some newly discovered point, I admit that the latest edition of Lippincott's "Gazetteer" would be the most natural resource; but what headway, I pray, would a tyro, or even one who has made some progress in geography make,—with such an aid in its study,—in learning the grand divisions of the earth, with their subdivisions down to the obscurest township? Scientific classification, if I understand it, implies subordination of parts to the whole; individual subjects require classification under more generic heads, as much as individual works require arranging under specific heads. The general reader thus acquires two clews to a desired work, besides the alphabetical list of authors, and the student has the satisfaction of finding his favorite theme surrounded by those of cognate character.

We need the aid of the best minds and the largest experience in perfecting a system of classification, and I look on it as a hopeful augury that the custodians of our most important libraries are showing an interest in the subject. With a matured scheme in actual embodiment, would not the walking index proposed in the last Boston Public Library Report be well-nigh reduced to a superfluity?

E. C. A.

## HOW TO USE THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.\*

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE USE OF PUPILS.

*Text-books as a basis of reading.*—In much of your use of the library you will do well to make your text-books the basis. That is, you will feel an interest in some subject which is touched upon in your lesson, and will wish for more information about it than is found there. Such information you can find in some larger and more complete work in the library, which, perhaps, may be quoted, or in some way referred to in your text-book. Do not undertake to read all of the works thus referred to, but make yourselves masters of what you do read and consult.

*Use of reference books.*—Become familiar also with the use of works of reference, particularly such as are arranged in dictionary or alphabetical form. These are not designed to be read through, but to be consulted for information which one part of the volume may contain, independently of all other parts. In the same way, you should form the habit of using maps and atlases, when reading any work which is concerned with the location of places.

*Reading for an essay.*—In making use of the library for the preparation of an essay, seek for that which will be suggestive. That is, when you come to write, let it be something which you have thought out for yourselves from the statements you consulted, rather than something transferred bodily to your pages, with no mental effort. You will find yourselves just so much stronger mentally, for every effort you make to think for yourselves.

*Habits of reading.*—Strive to acquire wholesome habits of reading, and to maintain them. Come to the library with a definite book or subject in mind, rather than with an aimless desire for "some book,—no matter what." Concentrate your attention on the subject you are reading about, for it is worse than useless to dawdle through it. Read carefully and thoroughly, so as to be able to digest one subject in your mind before passing to another. Do not form the habit of returning your books every two or three days. Such a practice, if persisted in, will make your reading a morbid habit, rather than a benefit.

*Imaginative literature.*—It is not intended that you should be limited, in your reading, to books which simply contain information. It will be well for you to become familiar with the best works of poetry, fiction, and other departments of literature

in which the imagination is the chief element. Ask your teacher for suggestions about books of this class. He will be glad to direct you to some work which you will find it a positive benefit to read. Do not forget, however, that, of all the powers of the mind, the imagination is one that is most easily abused, and do not allow this class of reading to claim too much of your time.

*Excessive reading.*—A proper ambition is commendable, in reading, as in other things, but there is nothing meritorious in the mere act of reading, apart from any good results. Remember that one book, thoroughly digested, is better than twenty, quickly hurried through, and then as quickly forgotten. Nor should your reading interfere with your ordinary school duties, but be made supplementary to them. So, also, it should not interfere with your regular out-door exercise. Some pupils, certainly, will not need this caution, but it is of great importance that it should be heeded by those who do need it.

*Assistance.*—While you will gain much in making yourselves independent of assistance, in the simpler matters of study and research, do not hesitate to ask for help when you really need it. The librarian and his assistants will be very glad to give you help or suggestions on any matter about which you are seeking for information, and you will find them interested to help you.

*Reviewing.*—It will be well for you occasionally to review your reading for a series of weeks or months, noting down what new ideas you have gained from the books you have read, and noticing whether your advance has been, on the whole, in the right direction. If it has not been, begin at once to correct the error. It will be a useful practice for you to enter in a note-book, from time to time, such facts or memoranda as you consider of special value to you. The very act of writing will serve to fix them in your memory, even though you should never look at the memorandum again. Life is too short to read many books through but once, but you will occasionally find a book which so impresses you that you wish to go through it a second time. You will be surprised to find, not only how your interest is almost doubled, on the second reading, but how the two views you have obtained of the book, supplementing each other, have served to fix an image of its main ideas in your mind.

## IN BRIEF, THEN:

- 1.—Begin by basing your reading on your school text-books.
- 2.—Learn the proper use of reference-books.
- 3.—Use books that you may obtain and express ideas of your own.

\* This article is the circular issued by Mr. Foster from the Providence Public Library for use in schools, and referred to in his Conference paper on "The School and the Library," LIB. JOUR., v. 4, p. 319.—EDS.

- 4.—Acquire wholesome habits of reading.
- 5.—Use imaginative literature, but not immoderately.
- 6.—Do not try to cover too much ground.
- 7.—Do not hesitate to ask for assistance and suggestions, at the library.
- 8.—See that you make your reading a definite gain to you, in some direction.

W. E. FOSTER.

#### SPECIAL FAVORS TO TRUSTEES OR FACULTY.

It is very common in college libraries to allow the professors a very large, if not an unlimited, number of books out at one time, and to insist on no rules at all about their return. Such a plan defeats its own purpose. Of 20 professors, each one who takes too many books or keeps them too long, diminishes by so much the value of the library for the other 19. An extreme case came to notice some time since. A professor returned a book which he had drawn 20 years before. On examination, it was found that the leaves were not yet cut, a sufficient answer to the argument that he doubtless wished it for daily use. In another college, the rule was 50 books to each of the faculty, to be returned at commencement each year. As a result, nearly all felt that there was no occasion to carry back the books no longer needed, but left them to be sent back in a wagon at the end of the year. Under a change in management, the rule was called to attention, and all admitted that it ought to be observed. Some had as high as 200 or 300 books out. They came in by basket-fuls. But one felt himself aggrieved, and made bitter complaint of the rule. He said that the books which he had were such as no one except the professor in his department would ever care to see, and it did the college more good to have them at his house than in the library. But when his man brought in the baskets of books, the attendants were troubled to keep from laughing in his face, as a large number of the most popular novels of Scott and Dickens, popular poetry, etc., were among the first taken from the baskets.

I don't mean at all that the faculty shall have no greater privileges than the students, but abuses which grow up so easily ought to be rooted out.

Another abuse was the custom of giving permission to students to borrow books on the names of professors. The theory, doubtless, was that a professor, knowing some student in his department who needed extra books for special study, could give this permission. It took but a short time to

make an abuse of this privilege. Some students asked several of the faculty for permission to use their names. A good-natured professor never refused. It cost him nothing, and pleased the student. As a result, some members of the faculty had numbers of books in the hands of numbers of students; the desk attendants were driven nearly wild with the complication of entering books on other people's names, and mistakes were the order of the day. The committee took the matter in hand. No professor was allowed more than 50 v. at a time. These must be returned, or renewed, if no one else wished them, at the end of each term. Students were not allowed to draw books on the names of the faculty, who were thus saved the embarrassment of refusing such requests. Those needing an increased number of books, gave their reasons in writing and were allowed them.

My experience is strongly in favor of having plain, concise rules well digested and adapted to the Library and then to stick to them. The power of suspending in special cases should be given only to the committee in charge, or to the librarian, and should not be exercised without good cause.

MELVIL DEWEY.

#### LIBRARY PESTS.

PROF. WESTWOOD, the distinguished entomologist of Oxford, recently read a paper before the British Association at Sheffield, "On the insects which injure books," in which he notices and supplements Dr. Hagen's paper before the American Library Association at their Boston meeting.\*

An abstract of Prof. Westwood's paper appears in the brief reports of the meeting published in various scientific journals of London, and several injurious insects are mentioned which are not referred to either in Dr. Hagen's paper or in the supplementary bibliography. Such are "the caterpillars of the moth *Aglossa pinguinates*, and also of a species of *Depressaria*," which "often injure books by spinning their webs between the volumes and gnawing small portions of the paper with which to form their cocoons. A small mite, *Cheyletus cruditus*, is also found occasionally in books kept in damp places." "The insects that do the greatest injury are *Anobium pertinax* and *A. striatum*, commonly known as the 'death watches,' burrowing through the books, even, it is recorded, drilling through twenty-seven folio volumes. Various remedies for the destruction of these insects were mentioned, and especial notice was directed to a 'Report of the Commission Ap-

\* LIB. JOUR., v. 4, p. 257, 373.

pointed to Inquire into the Decay of Wood-carvings, and the Means of Preventing and Remedying the Effect of such Decay,' issued by the Science and Art Department in 1864.\* Prof. Westwood then detailed the various remedies proposed, as washing with solution of corrosive sublimes in alcohol, exposing the books to the vapor of benzine, or carbolic acid, or fumigating with burning sulphur." See *The Zoölogist*, Oct., 1879, p. 430.

JUSTIN WINSOR.

#### LIBRARY HOURS.

A New-York journal some time since contained the following complaint:

"Having occasion to consult some special books I called at the Astor Library, about five o'clock Friday afternoon, on my way up town from business. I found the library closed, and a notice on the door read: 'Open from 10 A. M. to half-past four P. M.' I am prompted to ask, for whose benefit is the Astor Library kept open at all? For the business men of New-York? Certainly not, I should think, since they are all at their places of business long before ten o'clock and for the most part do not leave until after 'half-past four P. M.' For the working men and women? Assuredly not, for the same good reasons. For whom was it, then, established? I understand that in a great city like New York numbers of transient and unemployed men and women can find time to avail themselves of the benefit of its magnificent store of information, but the mass of New Yorkers can never, under existing regulations, be among the favored. I cannot but think that such rules as to the time of opening and closing tend to defeat in a great measure the benevolent intentions and purposes of its generous founder. Will not the directors prescribe hours more in consonance with reason?"

NEW YORKER."

This is useful as a suggestive text. There are two sides, both worthy attention. "New Yorker" probably knows little about the old difficulties of opening libraries by artificial light. To burn gas all thru the building is a great expense, and the heat at least is bad for the bindings. Some libraries have tried dark lanterns for the use of attendants in finding books; some small hand-lamps placed at the beginning of each corridor as in hotels. The British Museum, formerly always closed after daylight, now hopes for success with the electric light, which may yet prove the complete solution to this difficulty of lighting.

Then comes the question of hours for the

attendants. They must be there while "New Yorker" is at his business, and he wants them there before and after, forgetting that they are human, that their work is quite as trying to endurance as is his. None except indolent or overworked attendants question the very great desirability of keeping our popular universities open as many hours as possible. Most of us believe heartily in Sunday opening, as a help rather than a hindrance to a better observance of the Sabbath. All believe that if practicable the library and reading-room should offer their attractions as many hours of the day as readers will occupy them.

Of the two difficulties, lights and attendants, the first seems near a solution, and the electric light may be counted a special boon to our profession. As to the second, the wealthy libraries must supply extra attendants, and the necessary supervision must be provided by the officers taking their turn at evening service.

For the small libraries thru the country, a plan is gaining favor which extends the library hours very largely. A common fault with these libraries is that their hours are short and seldom. Once or twice a week for an hour, or sometimes for less, is not an uncommon rule. While quite a large majority contrive to serve themselves at these times, there can be no question that many others neglect the library because of the inconvenience of its hours. There may be no children to send, or they may be in school during the library hours; the father is at his shop and the mother in her kitchen. Considerable planning is necessary to get the desired book, and evening often finds the little home without the expected volume. If in some way the library could be kept open so that the children could stop on their way home from school, or the husband on his way home from the shop, it would make the way much easier. These little village libraries often issue no more books in a day than could be given out in 20 minutes. Should they keep an attendant all day for this purpose? Yes; for in every village some one can be found with leisure, or having work to do that can be done in the library, who will attend at little or no charge, so that whenever any would-be-reader comes, he can be served and no time be wasted. In the winter, some extra expense for heating the room, in the evening something for lighting, are the only extra expenses. These are slight compared to the great gain. The system of charging should always be so simple that little special training is needed to manage it properly. We therefore urge strongly upon the small libraries to plan in some way to keep them open as many hours as possible.

MELVIL DEWEY.

\* This does not appear in the Report of the Science and Art Department for 1864, as issued with the Parliamentary Papers.



## THE NEW BIRMINGHAM LIBRARIES.

THE Libraries were destroyed by fire in January last. Pending the erection of a new and improved building on the old site, temporary accommodation was secured in the Municipal Buildings, or "Council House," and the work of the Library started again with a stock of over 10,000 v. for the Reference and 20,000 for the Lending Department.

Very generous help has been given in the emergency by all sorts of people, some of the comparatively poor men of the town offering the best from their little stock of books, and the wealthier citizens giving their fine editions, and gifts of money, too.

Her most gracious Majesty the Queen wrote to ask permission to help in restoring the Library, and presented the magnificent work of Lepsius on the "Monuments of Egypt," and several other costly books.

The University of Oxford gave its valuable issues from the Clarendon Press, and the Trustees of the British Museum its publications on Art, Antiquities and Natural History.

The Learned Societies: The Hebrew Literature Society, English Dialect Society, New Shakspere Society, Hakluyt Society, Statistical Society, Royal Historical Society, Archaeological Association, Pharmaceutical Society, Meteorological Council of the Royal Society, gave their publications.

The Deutsche Shakspere Gesellschaft, Weimar, collected from all the authors and publishers in Germany their Shakspere translations and *ana*.

The Manchester Free Library, and the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, gave valuable help from their stock of duplicates.

Mr. B. Quaritch, Sampson Low & Co., Messrs. Bentley & Son, Messrs. Chatto & Windus, Routledge & Son, Ward, Lock & Co., E. & F. N. Spon, Chapman & Hall, and other booksellers and publishers also gave very handsome help.

These gifts, with the sum paid by the insurance company, and the amount given in subscriptions by the town, £13,000, will go far to replace such portion of the Library as can be replaced.

Several small towns in the neighborhood of Birmingham have recently adopted the Free Libraries Acts, notably Aston, Handsworth, and Wednesbury, and have selected their Librarians in each case from gentlemen who either were or had been connected with the Birmingham Free Libraries, viz.: Mr. R. K. Dent, Mr. G. Catlin and Mr. A. Colgreave, the first of whom has compiled and published a popular illustrated work of considerable value on "Old and New Birming-

ham," from which the following is quoted: "In the Spring of 1869, the treasures of the Reference Library were rendered more accessible to the public by the issue of an admirably compiled catalogue, which, while affording all the advantages of classification, as well as of a full and alphabetical list, had the great merit of brevity and cheapness. The credit of compiling this model catalogue is due to the chief librarian and his invaluable assistant, Mr. F. T. Barrett, who has since been appointed Chief Librarian of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow,—a post which he is eminently qualified to fill with credit both to himself and to the Library over which he presides. We may here also mention, as a circumstance worthy of remark, that there are few public libraries from which so many subordinate officers have been elected to preside over similar establishments in other towns, as those of Birmingham, which have thus proved a valuable training-school for librarians. Mr. F. T. Barrett, of Glasgow, Mr. C. Madeley, of Warrington, Mr. J. H. Wright, of Stockton-on-Tees, Mr. Johnson, of the Medical Institute Library, Birmingham, Mr. A. Colgreave, of Wednesbury, and Mr. G. Catlin, of Handsworth, are among those whom the present writer (himself a member of the same fraternity, trained at Birmingham) can call to mind as having received their first lessons in library management under Mr. J. D. Mullins."

## THE LIBRARY OF THE MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, LONDON.

THE scientific library of the Museum of Practical Geology, in Jermyn street, London, was founded in 1843, the earliest books received being a selection from the private library of the first Director of the Institution, Sir Henry Thomas De la Bache, K. C. B., F. R. S. The next Director, Sir Roderick I. Murchison, Bart., K. C. B., and also his nephew, Mr. Kenneth Murchison, were most liberal donors, and many valuable additions have been made by the present Director, Professor A. C. Ramsay, F. R. S. From its foundation, the library has been liberally presented with the scientific publications issued by learned societies and government geological surveys, both at home and abroad; perhaps the most numerous and important of these donations coming from America. Many works have also been acquired by exchanging the catalogues of the Museum, or the maps and memoirs issued by the Geological Survey Office, for various foreign publications. The



purchases of books are made by means of an annual grant from Parliament.

From small beginnings the library has rapidly increased until at the present time it numbers nearly 30,000 v. In the last twenty years it has quadrupled. The books are almost entirely confined to Biology, Mining, Mineralogy, Geology, Metallurgy, Chemistry, Physics, and Mechanics, these being the subjects taught by the professors in the Royal School of Mines, or required for reference by the officers of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom. Transactions of learned societies, scientific serial publications, and reports of geological surveys are the works chiefly consulted.

Although relating mainly to technical matters of the present day, the library possesses many good copies of treatises relative to early science, which are interesting from a bibliographical, as well as scientific, point of view; among those being the works of Pliny, Galilei, Geber, Barba, Croll, Basil Valentine, Glauber, Paracelsus, Lord Bacon, etc., etc.

On account of the limited accommodation which is barely sufficient for the students of the Mining School, the library could not be made a public one; but every possible facility is offered to those persons who wish to consult it for scientific purposes. It is open from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M. from March to October inclusive, and from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M. for the other months, with the exception of one month, viz., from the 10th of August to the 10th of September.

About three years ago, the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury ordered the preparation of a printed catalogue, which had long been a great want. Mr. Henry White, who superintended the Royal Society's "Catalogue of Scientific Papers," and the Assistant Librarian of the Museum of Geology, were directed by the Department to proceed at once with the compilation. The result of their labors (which, to prevent interruption in the daily work of the library, were entirely performed after office hours) has appeared in the form of an octavo volume of more than 600 p. Its title is, "A Catalogue of the Library of the Museum of Practical Geology and Geological Survey. Compiled by Henry White and Thomas W. Newton, Assistant Librarian. London, 1878. Sold at the Museum." Copies of this catalogue have been presented by the Government to Harvard University, Yale College, the Smithsonian Institution, and several other American libraries, as well as to the principal scientific institutions of Europe.

THOMAS WILLIAM NEWTON.

#### DR. ALLIBONE'S EXCERPTS ON INDEXING.

THIS subject is so prominently before us that we reprint, for those who have not seen it and for reference of all, what Dr. Allibone prints on the back of his letter paper. If we all did as much as he to impress on the public the need of indexes, a new and better era would be near at hand. The letter back is as follows:

##### LET NO BOOK LACK AN ALPHABETICAL INDEX.

SCALIGER devoted ten months to compiling an Index to GRUTER's *Inscription Antiquæ*; BAILLET not only eulogized the Index to ANTONIO's *Bibliotheca*, but made an Index of 35 v. to the books of M. DE LAMOIGNON's Library; LE CLERC considered Index making a vocation too high for every writer; MATTAIRE made Indexes, and lauds the art in a Latin thesis.

"An Index is a necessary *implement*, and no impediment of a book except in the same sense wherein the *carriages* of an army are termed *impedimenta*. Without this a large author is but a labyrinth, without a clue to direct the reader therein."—*Fuller's Worthies*.

"If a book has no Index or good Table of Contents, 'tis very useful to make one as you are reading it."—*Dr. Watts*.

True, but an author has no right to make me suffer for his negligence or indolence.

"I wish you would add an *Index rerum*, that when the reader recollects any incident, he may easily find it, which at present he cannot do, unless he knows in which volume it is told."—*Dr. Johnson to Richardson*.

And RICHARDSON was sensible enough to profit by the advice.

"Books born mostly of Chaos—which want all things, even an Index—are a painful object. . . . He writes big books wanting in almost every quality, and does not even give an index to them."—*Carlyle's Frederick the Great, v. 1*.

"The value of anything, it has been observed, is best known by the want of it. Agreeably to this idea, we, who have often experienced great inconveniences from the want of *indexes*, entertain the highest sense of their worth and importance. We know that in the construction of a good Index there is far more scope for the exercise of judgment and abilities, than is commonly supposed. We feel the merits of the compiler of such an Index, and we are even ready to testify our thankfulness for his exertions."—*London Monthly Review*.

"Those authors, whose subjects require them to be voluminous, will do well, if they would be

remembered as long as possible, not to omit a duty which authors, in general, but especially modern authors, are too apt to neglect—that of appending to their works a good Index. For their deplorable deficiencies in this respect, Professor DE MORGAN, speaking of historians, assigns the curious reason, 'that they think to oblige their readers to go through them from beginning to end, by making this the only way of coming at the contents of their volumes. They are much mistaken, and they might learn from their own mode of dealing with the writings of others how their own will be used in turn.' We think that the unwise indolence of authors has probably had much more to do with the matter than the reason thus humorously assigned; but the fact which he proceeds to mention is incontestably true. 'No writer (of this class) is so much read as the one who makes a good index or so much cited.'—*Henry Rogers: The Vanity and Glory of Literature.*

Let Lord Campbell's proposition be adopted:—"So essential," remarks his Lordship, "did I consider an Index to be to every book, that I proposed to bring a Bill into Parliament to deprive an author who publishes a book without an Index of the privilege of copyright; and, moreover, to subject him, for his offence, to a pecuniary penalty."—*Preface to v. 3 of Chief Justices.* S. A. A.

#### "LIBRARIANS IN COUNCIL."

[THIS, from the English jocularist weekly, *Funny Folks*, is the nearest to a joke that London can manufacture upon the librarians. A solemn business, indeed, whose very fun is such a fun-eral as that. F: B. P.]

THE annual meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom was opened last week in Manchester, in a room appropriately hung with "book-muslin." Many librarians were present, and the proceedings were, as usual, "voluminous"; although several resolutions were promptly catalogued and "shelved."

Amongst the papers read were the following:

"Was the Original 'Dunciad' Published in 'Foolscape?'" By the Librarian of the Bodleian.

"Cata-logical Syllogisms." By the Principal Librarian at the British Museum.

"On the Re-turning of Books." By a Practical Turner.

"Safe 'Bind,' Safe Find." By a *Russo-ophile*.

"The Superior Strength of 'Morocco.'" By a *Turcophile*.

"On Circulating Libraries." By a City Book-keeper.

"Label-'sticking' and Cata-'logging.'" By a Chip of the Old Block.

#### MR. GARNETT ON "PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND THEIR CATALOGUES."

MR. R. GARNETT's *New quarterly magazine* paper (April, 21 p.), under the above heading, is a very interesting article, which I must apologize for not having noticed sooner in the regular course of bibliography. I have waited for an opportunity, which does not come, to make long extracts.

Mr. Garnett remarks on the augmented condition of libraries, the cause being, "the enormous increase of knowledge, the need of a rigorous classification of its stores, and the development of a specialized class of workers to discharge this function. ... Librarians, as such, occupy much the same relation to the republic of letters as the commissariat to the rest of the army—their business is not to fight themselves, but to put others in a condition to do it. ... One thought clearly underlies [the formation of the library associations, the conferences, etc.,]—that library administration actually is a science, and library administration a department of the public service." Mr. Garnett then takes in order the book-supply and the catalogue. "The purchase of books is subject to the general law of specialization, and the character of a collection must vary as it falls within the category of national, academical, or municipal libraries. The mission of the national is simplest: it is the general receptacle of the national literature, good, bad, and indifferent, and the epitome of foreign literature. ... But even the ideal of rendering the library a representative of the thought and knowledge of the age must either be moderated, or pursued at the risk of incurring comparatively useless expenditure. A new periodical gives pause: it must be taken, like a wife, for better or worse; for once commenced it can seldom be dropped. New editions of scientific works occasion much perplexity. It is equally vexatious to be behindhand with the latest results of discovery and to spend money on what is certain to be soon superseded by something better still." Academical libraries may more properly be devoted to special objects. Municipal libraries must "not merely make ready for guests, but 'compel them to come in.' ... We cannot agree with those who think that public money may be properly expended upon trashy novels, in the chimerical hope that the appetite for reading they will probably create may be diverted to worthier objects. It is far more likely to destroy any latent capacity for serious reading. But the adverse experience of mechanics' institutes has shown that it will not do to be too austere in such matters, and the man who is capable of relishing Thackeray or George Eliot is not far from the kingdom of cult-

ure. Other novelists of a less purely intellectual cast may weaken the love or stimulate the pursuit of knowledge. Scott indirectly teaches not a little history, Marryatt not a little geography; either might provoke a craving for further information."

The catalog is next considered. The Museum "rules will now be generally accepted by bibliographers as embodying the principles of sound cataloguing. They may not be equally satisfying to the general public, with its preference for rough and ready methods; a very short experience, however, will convince any man that such methods in cataloguing mean simply hopeless confusion, and that it is far better that a book should be now and then hidden away than that entire categories of books should be entered at random. ... The Museum catalogue receives the sincerest form of flattery,—imitation. ... Cataloguing solely by subjects is a delusion. A catalogue of books on any special subject must either be imperfect, or must contain a large number of entries repeated from other catalogues; while, in any case, the reader can never satisfy himself that the book he has at first failed to find is not after all in the library. But an alphabetical catalogue without a subject index is not always useful."

The subject catalog is then considered, and Mr. Garnett holds, "that the alphabetical index of subjects should be the auxiliary and complement of the alphabetical catalogue, not a part of it; that each book should be entered in it, as in the catalogue, once and once only [!]; that the minor indexes should be grouped together, so as to form collectively a whole (e. g., ornithology and ichthyology as subsections of zoölogy), and that the operations of cataloguing and indexing should go on at once." In criticising the dictionary catalog, he finds a great objection in the number of cross-references required; "after a few generations of literary industry, the catalogue, like the proverbial wood, would be invisible on account of the entries,"—an argument that is doubly unsound. (1) I have before me a dictionary of the English language containing 67,000 words and contained in 491 duodecimo pages. It would be extravagant to suppose that there will ever be more references than there are words in the dictionary. Probably there would be about as many, the compound phrases, like Death-penalty and Capital-punishment, making up for the entire omission of all parts of speech except nouns and adjectives, and for the very large omissions among these parts of speech (which any one may see by looking over a vocabulary). At the very worst, then, the cross references of an immense catalog could be contained in a moderate volume; and if, as has been

proposed in this country, that volume be prepared once for all, so as to serve for many libraries, a project which, tho not without difficulties, is feasible, the objection vanishes. (2) The subject catalog has precisely the same need of references as the dictionary, so that the objection, even if it cannot be made to vanish, has no weight in the controversy between the dictionary and the systematic catalog. Mr. Garnett continues, "Generally speaking, the cardinal error of plans for dictionary catalogues appears to us to be an excessive deference to the claims of the average reader." Considering that the vast majority of those who consult libraries would come under the designation of "average readers," and that very learned men, as soon as they get beyond their specialties, and wish to consult the catalog on some less familiar subject, are no better off than "average readers," this is certainly not a very weighty objection.

Mr. Garnett leaves this branch of his subject with some flattering remarks on Cutter's rules, which, he says, however, "agree with the Museum rules in the main, and when differing do not differ for the better."

The question of printing the British Museum catalog is decided against so far as concerns the convenience of readers throughout the kingdom; but is advocated as a means of condensing the catalog, which in its present form is not merely unwieldy, but rapidly becoming too large to be contained in the immense reading-room.

"The subject of the classification of books within the library itself—a matter of even more importance to the librarian than the preparation of classified lists—has received a great impulse from the ingenious system contrived by Mr. Melvil Dewey—a remarkable instance of the combination of disinterested enthusiasm with thorough business capacity." Mr. Garnett's account of Mr. Dewey's plan is incorrect in one point. "Further subdivisions," he says, "would be made by appending letters to these numerals, as 501a, 501b." Mr. Dewey never proposed to add letters. If anything was to be added it would have been decimal figures, as 501.1, 501.2, as is done by Mr. Larned at Buffalo, or the whole number could be regarded as a decimal,—.5011, .5012. Mr. Garnett's fear that the necessary "modification in practice from the impossibility of accommodating books of all sizes, on the same shelf," and that "these and similar necessary condescensions to the prosaic exigencies of space might in process of time throw it out of gear altogether," is shown by experience to be unfounded. Space is, indeed, as Mr. Garnett remarks, "the librarian's capital enemy;" but it offers no stouter resistance to the movable than to the fixed

plan of locating books; in fact, the movable location is especially devised as a means of escape from an evil caused by the limited amount of space with which most libraries start,—namely, the necessity of rearranging the whole library when new rooms are added or a new building is provided.

Then follow brief remarks upon the recent extension of free libraries and public reading-rooms, the American practice of annotated bulletins, the opposition to free libraries in London, and the advantages of the electric light at the British Museum.

C: A. CUTTER.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY.

EDITED BY CHARLES A. CUTTER.

#### 1. NOTICES.

WINSOR, Justin. The reader's handbook of the American Revolution, 1761-83. Boston, Houghton, Osgood & Co., 1880 [1879]. 5 + 328p. D.

The author has so neatly stated his purpose in the preface that the reviewer has little to add in describing the work. "It is like a continuous foot-note to all histories of the American Revolution. It points out sources, but it includes also the second-hand authorities, though not all of them. Its references are made because the books referred to are the best, or because for some reason they are significant above others, though perhaps in minor details; and sometimes simply because of their greater accessibility." The assistance given by such a work to investigators is great;\* but the chief good of the book, after all, lies in the encouragement it will give to thorough investigation and in its suggestions in that direction. It is not only a help in studying, but by its very form it leads the student to see the proper method of studying. It ought to be put into every library whose directors wish their clients to do something better than read for amusement; and when it is in the library, the librarian ought to bring it to the notice of all who show any interest in historical studies, and if pos-

\* This is well illustrated in a notice in the *Boston Sunday Herald*, Nov. 23 (53 cm.).

"The story is told of rough old Sam Houston, of Texas, that, on the occasion of his putting up for the first time in one of the enormous hotels of New-York, he was discovered making his way, hatchet in hand, through the labyrinth of its endless passages, and, every now and then, chipping a sliver out of a door-frame. To the question what had set him on to such vandalism, he replied that he was 'blazing the path,' so as not to get lost. The day has already arrived, when a great deal of such 'blazing' will have to be done or the human race will find itself utterly dumfounded and astray. All things are fast getting to be labyrinthine, but worst of all public libraries."

The application is sufficiently obvious.

sible to induce some of his desultory readers to follow out some of its lines of investigation.

C: A. C.

#### A. Library economy, history, and reports.

AMENDUNI, Giuseppe. Dell' ufficio del bibliotecario. Napoli, tip. dell' Acad. R. delle Sci., 1879. 20 p. 8°.

CAMBRIDGE (Eng.) FREE LIB. AND MUSEUM. 24th an. rep., 1878-9. Camb., 1879. 15 p. O. Added, 1083; withdrawn, 168; total, 23,678; issued, 60,709.

FLETCHER FREE LIB., Burlington, Vt. 5th an. rep. Burl., 1879. 12 p. 8°.

Added, 434 v.; total, 11,534; issued, 35,238. A novel table gives the percentage of the issue of fiction during each month. It was lowest in March, 66, from which it rose to 77 in July and 78 in August, and then fell again, the percentage for the year being 70.

MANCHESTER (Eng.) PUB. FREE LIB. COM. 27th an. rep., 1878-9. Man., 1879. 31 p. O.

Added, 8954 v.; total, Ref. Lib., 61,171; Lending branches, 85,306; issued, Ref. Lib. 173,137, Reading rooms of branches, 243,401; for home reading, 568,541.

POOL, R. B. Libraries of railroad young men's Christian associations. n. p., n. d. 6 p. O.

Repr. from "Proceedings of the 2d international conference of the R. R. Y. M. C. A.'s of the U. S. and Canada, N. Y., 1879." 66 p. O. Gives a useful list of standard histories, works on the Bible, professional works on RR. science, and lighter RR. literature.

ROSÈRES, Raoul. Les bibliothèques des moines. (*In his Recherches crit. sur l'hist. relig. de la France*, Paris, Laisney, 1879, fr. 3.50.)

SOUTHBRIDGE (Mass.) P. L. Suppl. catalogue, no. 1. Boston, 1880 [1879]. 75 p. O.

WARREN CO. (Ill.) LIB. An. statement for the year ending June 1, 1879. n. p., n. d. [3] p. O.

Added, 908 v.; total, 6772 (also 2300 v. for reference only, belonging to the College Lib.).

Y. M. A. OF BUFFALO. Index.

[The following note was omitted when the title above was given on p. 424 of this volume.—Eds.]

Prefixed are 3 p. of clear Explanations, in which it is to be noted that the class number is represented as an integer and subdivisions as decimals. E. g. 971 being U. S. history, 971.1 is the first period, 971.2 the second period, and so on, which introduces an utterly unnecessary period; for the whole class-number in the Dewey system ought properly to be considered as a decimal, the library being unity. The additions to the classification are printed at the foot of the pages, when short, but several that are more elaborate are grouped on an additional page at the end. These are in Geology, Domestic animals, Geography, Biography, and History.

*The British Museum Library*; by W. P. Courtney.—*Fortnightly rev.*, Oct. 16 p.

*The library movement thirty years ago*; [signed] Justin Winsor.—*Literary world*, Oct. 11. 3¼ col.



*Our library.*—*Russian River flag*, Healdsburg, Sonoma Co., Cal., Oct. 16. 47 cm.

"As the novelty had worn off and the interest aroused to secure its original existence had expired, the regular income of the Association was less than one half the regular monthly expenditures, which were generally over \$37.50." Consequently, the property of the Association was attached for rent.

"CARDINAL HERGENRÖTHER has been commissioned by the Pope to submit to him a new plan for arranging the Vatican archives in order to make them more accessible to scholars. At the same time the cardinal has been authorized to publish interesting codices."

"In the *Renaissance* we find high praise bestowed on a monthly bibliographic [*i. e.*, critical] bulletin called *La Lecture*, published at Geneva, and designed for the use of families and popular institutions and libraries. Many of the reviews are written by women. It owes its existence to the local society for promoting public libraries."—*Nation*, Sept. 25.

#### B. Catalogs of libraries.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE. *Département des Imprimés*. Catalogue alphabétique des ouvrages mis à la libre disposition des lecteurs dans la salle de travail. Paris, H. Champion, 1879. 20 + 257 p. D. and plan 41 X 50 cm.

BIBLIOTH. NAT. DE FRANCE. *Dep. des Impr.* Catal. de l'hist. de France. Tome 11. Paris, Firmin, Didot & Cie, 1879. 2 l. + 747 p. 4°. 20 m.

18,440 nos., 2,654 new editions, 392 references.

The Salle de travail, built in 1868, covers 1,156 sq. m., has seats for 344 readers, and is open from 10 to 4. A reader may have 2 books at once, and 5 books in all during the day (!). No books are to be taken from the hall. The catalog contains about 4,000 entries, of which, perhaps,  $\frac{1}{2}$  are subject references. The books are almost entirely historical, with the classics of Greece, Rome, France, Germany, and England.

BOSTON PUB. LIB. Bulletin. *n. p.* Oct., 1879. 109-144. Q.

Has notes on "Mysteries, miracle plays, moralities, and religious dramas," "Genealogy" (3d and last paper), and "The Chinese in America."

DZIATZKO, K.: Eine Einrichtung zum Schutz von Zettelkatalogen. Dresden, Pässler, 1879. 5 p. 8°. (25 copies.)

Repr. from *N. Anzeiger*, July, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  p.

Describes a method of preventing the abstraction of cards from a card-catalogue. Alludes to Mr. Dunlop's and Mr. Cowell's methods; but does not appear to have heard of the French method of Bonnange, nor of the plan now in very general use in America, of Prof. Otis Robinson. Herr Dziatzko's method is to put over his drawers a lattice of thin wires too close together to allow cards to be taken out, and too far apart to interfere sensibly with reading. The lattice is locked in front. Herr Dziatzko describes his case of card drawers (which is apparently just like those used here for twenty years, and described in the U. S. Bureau of Education's report on libraries) as if it were a new invention.

HARVARD UNIV. LIB. Bulletin of the more important accessions, with bibliographical contributions. Vol. 1, nos. 1-13, 1875-9. Camb., 1879. 2 l. + 378 p. O.

Most of the nos. have been noticed in the *LIB. JOUR.* as they appeared. No. 13 continued the Calendar of Lee mss. and the Halliwelliana.

LENOX LIBRARY, *N. Y.* Contributions to a catalogue, no. 2: The Jesuit relations, etc. *N. Y.*, The Trustees, 1879. 19 p. sm. Q.

Prepared with the same thoroughness as no. 1.

MEDFORD (*Mass.*), P. L. Catalogue, Sept. 1, 1879. Pub. for the town by Estes and Lauriat, Boston, 1879. 6 + [1] + 323 p. O.

7,244 v. Every book appears twice, under author and title, with imprints in both cases. Abbreviations: B., Boston; C., Cambridge; L., London; N. Y., New-York; W., Washington. This ed. has been stereotyped. "Advantage has been taken of the opportunity to eliminate from the collection books of only ephemeral interest, and such as for their literary demerits were plainly objectionable, — about 500 v."

NEW HAVEN YG. MEN'S INSTITUTE. 1879. Book list. *n. p.*, *n. d.* 17 p. O.

Contains a year's additions, and the annual reports. There are about 9,000 v. in the library. Cost of printing 2,000 copies, \$59.25; received from advertisers, \$51.00.

ST. LOUIS PUB. SCHOOL LIB. Bulletin No. 1. Jan.-June, 1879. [St. L., 1879.] 26 p. + [10] p. (title, advertisements, notes and announcements).

Like the Boston Athenæum lists in having notices selected from critical journals; unlike it in giving imprints.

SALOMON, Gustav. ... Bibliotheca Gersdorffo-Zinzendorfiana; Verz. d. Bibliotheken d. verst. Herren Grafen F: C. v. Gersdorf [†1751], Grafen L: v. Zinzendorf Gründer d. Brüdergemeinde zu Herrnhut, Herrn v. Schrautenbach [†1783], Herren D. Nitschmann u. Fr. Köber [†1786]. 1. Abth. Theologie, welche am 7. Jan., 1880, *n. s. w.* versteigert werden. Dresden, [1879]. 8 + 230 p. O.

Sold by the Provincial Synod of the United Brethren after taking out the books relating to the History of the Brethren. With a preface by Dr. J. G. Th. Gräse, who sketches the history of the library and calls attention to its richness in Lutherana and in original editions of works of Luther's contemporaries.

WARREN CO. LIB. 2d catalogue, books received 1875-9. Monmouth, Ill. [1879]. p. 53-183. O.

The CINCINNATI Public Library has a large collection of the transactions of foreign learned societies. Title-slips for the contents of these volumes have been written, and it is intended, we suppose, to publish them in the Bulletins as occasion may offer. The March Bulletin prints, in 10 pages, the titles, alphabetically by authors, in the *Abhandlungen* of the Berlin Academy relating to "Philology and allied subjects," including classical history, antiquities, etc., and the



April number gives the titles relating to astronomy, meteorology etc., and also those concerning philosophy in the same volumes, in 3½ pages."—*Nation*.

"The PRINTING of the catalogue of the very rich collection of Arabic mss. in the National Library of Paris has begun. The authors are Signor M. Amari, of Rome, M. H. Derenbourg, and the late M. de Slane. M. H. Zotenberg, of the National Library, will carry it through the press."—*Athenaeum*.

"QUARITCH is about to issue a catalogue of Spanish books which will include, not only Castilian literature, but also books in Lincosin, Catalan, and Portuguese, a collection of rare editions such as could only be found in a great special library like that of the late Don Pedro Salvá, and many which are not even there; several Cancioneros and Romanceros, including the excessively rare Segunda parte of the Romancero general."

"M. TOKMAKOFF, librarian at Moscow of the archives connected with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has just completed a series of catalogues which will render the collection of mss. and printed volumes easily accessible to historical students. The following have been already printed:—viz., (1) Catalogue of mss. relating to jurisprudence dating from the thirteenth century; (2) Catalogue of medical works dating from 1597-1870; (3) Chronological catalogue of Slav-Russian books issued from the ecclesiastical press, 1517-1821. There are also being printed:—(1) Catalogue of mss. relating to the history of the Government and City of Moscow, their churches and monasteries; (2) Catalogue of mss. relating to the history of the Church, dating from the fifteenth century; (3) Catalogues of acts and documents illustrating the development of the drama in Russia from the sixteenth century."

"The UNIVERSITY of Moscow has published a 'Chronological catalogue of the Slav-Russian religious works printed between 1517 and 1821,' with a critical essay by Prof. Tokmakoff."—*Examiner*, Sept. 6.

### C. Bibliography.

DENIS, Ferd. Hist. de l'ornementation des mss. Paris, Rouveyre, 1880 [1879]. 3 l. + 143 p. 4°.

HORTON, S. Dana. Partial list of modern publications on money. (Pages 737-773 of INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CONFERENCE. Aug. 1878. Wash., 1879. 8°. 14 + 918 p. Congressional doc.).

REPERTORIO gen. ann. di giurisprudenza, bibliografia in materia di diritto commerciale, penale, e amministrativo; indice delle sentenze pub. nel v. 2, 1877 del Foro ital. e negli altri 35 periodici giudiziari d'Italia, e bibliog. delle monografie e delle articoli di diritto pub. nei detti period., nonché nelle op. giurid. ed. nell'an. 1877, [da] N. de Crescenzo, E. Scialoja, A. Millelire-Albini, M. Rutigliano, Giunio Sabbatini. Vol. 2, 1877. Roma, 1878. 1074 p. 4°. 12 l.

SCHIVARDI, Don. Plinio. Cenni bibliografici. Milano, 1878. 8 p. 16°.

STEIGER, E. Bibliographical bibliography; a selection of bibliographies for the use of booksellers and buyers; 1st division: Systematic list of practical bibliog. publications issued in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. (Pages 301-327 of his Year-book of education for 1879, N. Y., 1879, [6] + 566 p. O.)

THEOD. ACKERMANN, of Munich, has in preparation a catalogue of all the literature which relates to the Faust legend, comprising a period of 360 years (1519-1879).

"Dr. ELLIOTT COUES reprints from the Bulletin, v. 5, no. 2, of the U. S. Geol. and Geog. Survey, the second instalment of his unrivalled American ornithological bibliography. This continues the previous list of formal publications relating to N. Amer. ornithology by adding those relating to the ornithology of the rest of America. Dr. Coues also contributes to the Bulletin an essay towards a bibliography of the 'Passer domesticus,' alias English sparrow, against which he warns the West as a pest comparable to the grasshopper, unless, indeed, having failed with the Colorado beetle, it finds the grasshopper palatable. Upwards of 150 titles have been here collected."—*Nation*.

PSYCHE's prospectus promises that v. 3 (36 numeros (!), beginning Jan., 1880) shall contain a continuation of the bibliographical record of all articles published in North America on entomology, or pub. elsewhere on N. American, or on general entomology.

### D. Indexes.

Catalogo alfab. della BIBLIOTECA ebdomadaria teatrale, num. 1-887. Milano, Berini, 1879. 102 p. 32°. 30 l.

FREEMAN, E. History of the Norman conquest of England. Vol. 6: index volume. Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1879. [4] + 278 p. 8°.

INDEX to the American law review, 1st ser., 13 v., 1866-79. Boston, Little, Brown & Co., 1879. 4 + 157 p. O.

MEJOU, V. J. Recueil der Turkestan, tomes 1-150, l'indicateur systématique et alphabétique. St. Petersburg, 1878, 1 l., 3 p. + p. 81-184. 8°. (2,007 nos.)

TRÜBNER & CO. Bibliotheca Brasilica; books rel. to the Brazilian Empire from its discovery in 1500 and to the neighboring S. Amer. states; on sale. London, 1879. 54 p. O.

U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture. Gen. index of the agricultural reports of the Patent Office, 1837-61, and of the Department of Agriculture, 1862-76. Wash., 1879. 225 p. O.

Mr. GARNETT's "Subject-indexes to transactions of learned societies" (*Lit. Jour.*, 4:111-4) was reprinted in *Nature*, Oct. 9. In *Nature*, Oct. 30, p. 627, Mr. H. B. Whentley says: "The plan proposed by Mr. Garnett would not meet the great difficulty of compilation, which consists in the getting together of papers treating of identical subjects, but

written with various titles by different persons. I cannot help thinking, therefore, with Mr. J. B. Bailey (p. 580), that the titles of the papers would have to be generally ignored. ... Would it not be better to make the [subject-index or classified catalogue] in the form of a series of indexes of separate subjects? The day for great encyclopædic works is nearly past, and as the astronomer cares little for the papers of the zoölogist and would find them only in his way, so both the zoölogist and the astronomer would wish to have his own subject in a distinct volume. ... Prof. Holden, of the U. S. Naval Observatory, announces his intention of making an index to all the entries relating to astronomy in the 'Catalogue of scientific papers,' and also informs me that Prof. Abbe, of the U. S. Signal Service, has a complete card catalogue of the meteorological entries."

A PROVISIONAL Index to the *Glossary of Fish Names* in preparation for the Dialect Society has now been printed, and will be forwarded to any gentleman interested in the subject whose address is sent to Mr. Thomas Satchell, Downshire Hill House, N. W.

The SMITHSONIAN Institution will publish at an early day an index, in one alphabet, to all genera hitherto proposed in zoölogy, whether for recent or fossil animals.

We must in this place call attention to the excellent index which Mr. Tedder has prepared for the Oxford proceedings of the L. A. U. K.

#### PSEUDONYMS AND ANONYMS.

EDITED BY JAMES L. WHITNEY.

##### PSEUDONYMS.

*E. W. A.*—"Heart's delight" (N. Y., 1879). Mrs. Elizabeth Winslow Allderice.

Correction: see p. 208, vol. 4, L. J. E.

*Addie.*—"Snowflake's pleasure-book." [Also] "Sunshine for dull days" (N. Y., 1879, Amer. News Co.) Adelaide J. Cooley.

*Alter Ego.*—Robert E. Strahorn, known to Western newspaper readers under the above pseudonym, has published "To the Rockies and beyond; or, a summer on the Union Pacific Railroad and branches." (2d ed. Omaha, New West Pub. Co., 1879.)

*J. A. G. Barton.*—The pseudonym of Shoshee Chunder Dutt, a native of Calcutta. See advertisement in his *Historical Studies*, London, 1879.

*Howe Benning.*—"Hester Lenox" (N. Y., 1879. Amer. Tract Soc.) Mary H. Henry.

*Marie Cesinski.*—"Helen Egerton" (Phila.: Bible and publ. soc. [1873].) Miss H. A. Steinhauer. H. B. H.

*Joseph Citrouillard.*—M. Jean Louis Auguste Commerson, of the comic press of Paris, has recently died. Among his works is the following, published under the above pseudonym: "Les Binettes contemporaines, pour faire concurrence à celles d'Eugène [de Mirecourt] (1854-1859. 2 v. 32").

*Polybiblion.*

*A. Dubrony*, author of the "Essai sur le genre Chelidura" and "Énumération des Orthoptères rapportés par Mm. Doria, Beccari, et d'Albertis des régions Indienne et Austro-Malaise," published in the *Annali del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Genova*, will hereafter publish (he writes me) under his own name, A. de Bormans.

S. H. S.

*Harford Flemming.*—"Cupid and the Sphinx" (N. Y., 1878). The author is Mrs. Dr. McClellan, formerly Miss Harriet Hare, of Philadelphia.

*Heracitus Grey.*—"Playing trades" (L. Caswell, P. and G., 1879). Charles Marshall.

*Godfrey Greylock.*—"Taghonic: romance and beauty of the hills" (Boston, Lee and Shepard, 1879). Joseph Edward Adams Smith.

*F. E. H. H.*—"Jonas King: missionary to Syria and Greece" (American Tract Society, 1879). F. E. H. Haines.

*Juliette Lamber.*—A new monthly review, called "L'esprit libre," is about to appear in Paris. Madame Edmond Adam, well known in the literary world by the pseudonym of Juliette Lamber, will be the mainstay of the new periodical.

Lorenz states that Juliette Lamber is the maiden name of Mme. Edmond Adam, and the name still used by her. This review, of which several numbers have appeared, is called "La Nouvelle Revue." *Examiner.*

*Kwang Chang Ling.*—"Why should the Chinese go?" (San Francisco, 1878). Alexander Delmar.

*Poche.*—The dedication to the recently published "Bibliographie Moliéresque de Poche" is signed "Votre humilissime serviteur, Poche." This conceals the name of the learned and laborious bibliographer, M. Pierre Deschamps. The work is a reproduction of the article on Molière in the first volume of the *Supplément* to Brunet.

*Polybiblion.*

*St. Kames.*—S. Nugent Townshend is the author of "Colorado: its agriculture, stock-feeding, scenery, and shooting" (N. Y., O. Judd & Co., 1879), which originally appeared in letters to *The Field* (London) under the pseudonym "St. Kames."

*Dorothea Alice Shepherd.*—Ella Pratt (formerly Miss Farman), author of "How two girls tried farming" (Boston, D. Lothrop & Co., 1879).

*Staats.*—"A tight squeeze; or, the adventures of a gentleman who undertook to go from New York to New Orleans in three weeks without money, as a professional tramp." By "Staats" (Boston, 1879). William Staats, of the *Chicago Telegraph*.

*Georges Stenne.*—Mr. David Schornstein, better known under his pseudonym of "Georges Stenne," has recently died. He was a native of Alsace, and was born in 1826. He contributed to all the important Jewish papers published in France, and had been on the staff of the *Petit Journal* since its foundation. He translated the sixth volume of Dr. Graetz's *History of the Jews* into French, and wrote various novels, generally dealing with Jewish life, of which the best known are *Les Marranos* and *Perle*.

*John Stirling.*—The translator of E. Zola's *L'Assommoir* is said to be a pseudonym of Mrs. (Mary Neal?) Sherwood. *Literary World*.

*Surfaceman.* Ballads and sonnets (London, Macmillan, 1879). Alexander Anderson.

*Uncle John.*—"Our boys' own stories," and other books for children (N. Y., 1879. Amer. News Co.) Edwin O. Chapman.

#### ANONYMOUS WORKS.

*The Colonel's Opera Cloak* (Boston, Roberts brothers, 1879) is by Mrs. Christine Chaplin Brash, who also wrote the poem called "The Inland Country," in a recent number of the *Atlantic*.

A. D.

*An earnest trisler* (Bost. : Houghton, O. & Co. 1880 [1879]).—The author is Miss Mary A. Sprague, daughter of a well-known lawyer in Newark, Ohio. Beardeck, the scene of the story, is near Charlemont, Massachusetts.

*Cleveland Leader.*

*The old French chateau near Toulouse* (Bost., Loring, 1879). Edgar William Davies.

*The parables of the kingdom.* By the author of "Earth's many voices," etc. (Lond., 1879. W. W. Gardner). Miss Saxby.

*Poems.* By the author of "The growth of love" (Lond., 1879. E. Bumpus). Robert Bridges.

*Tanagra figurines [in the Boston Art Museum]* (Boston, Houghton, Osgood & Co. 1879). Mary Frazier Curtis.

*Woman the stronger. A novel* (N. Y., 1879, G. P. Putnam's Sons). Wm. J. Hagg.

#### NOTE.

M. Robert Reboul has published the following "Anonymes, pseudonymes, et supercheries littéraires de la Provence ancienne et moderne" (Marseille, 1879. 445 pp. 8"). The author is said to have studied the limited field he has chosen with great thoroughness, and to have collected much material not to be found in Quérard and Barbier.

#### NOTES AND QUERIES.

EDITED BY MELVIL DEWEY.

**BULLETIN BOARDS.**—Good black-board bulletins can be made of great service in the public libraries. Train some assistant to write or letter a very bold legible hand, and use the board to announce new books, regulations, hints to readers, loans, etc., etc. It is the cheapest possible method, and, well done, is much more prominent than written notices tacked up. An active librarian will find these of great assistance.

**COLORING CATALOGUE CARDS.**—The John Hopkins University uses a handsome azure card, of standard size and ruling, for books in other libraries, which it wishes to include in its catalogue. It shows ink about as well as white, and indicates plainly that the book is not in their own collection. Yellow, buff, rose tint, etc., might be used with various significations, carrying out the suggestions which I made in the article on "colors in libraries," *JOURNAL*, 3: 65.

**INJURIES TO BOOKS IN TRANSITU.**—It is well known to observing librarians that books are injured more in going and coming between library and home than in actual use. They are jammed in pockets and bags, left out in the dew or rain, carried under the arm with a see-saw at every step that would in time break every stitch, and injure in various other unintentional but effective ways. Is there no system to help this matter? Straps, satchels, etc., have come to my mind, but none seem practicable. Can any one suggest a remedy?

**PROMINENCE OF NUMBERS.**—It is a common mistake to think that the main class should have the largest number and so on till the individual book or volume is indicated by the smallest. In fact, just the reverse is the more convenient method. In mailing a letter we put in the most prominent position the name of the addressee, then his number, street, town, county, state, and lastly the country. When the letter starts the postmaster may have simply to throw it into an east or west bag, and can determine which with very little prominence in the direction. By progression the need of prominent guidance increases. The last clerk is working against time to get the mail just in distributed. He must have in the most prominent place the name so plain that he will not mix it with others similar. The book number is an exact parallel. If one number is more prominent than another it should be the book number. To go to the main class where the book belongs is very easy, but to put the book in its exact place requires closer attention.

## GENERAL NOTES.

## UNITED STATES.

**N. Y. MERCANTILE LIBRARY.**—The Clinton Hall Association, as the property association in connection with the N. Y. Mercantile Library is called, has completed negotiations for the purchase of a site for a new building, to be occupied by the Mercantile Library. The plot purchased is on the southeast corner of Broadway and 37th st. It consists of four lots on Broadway, and extends 136 feet on Thirty-seventh st. The price paid was \$180,000. The new building will cover the entire site, and is expected to cost over \$200,000. Though no decisive action has been taken in regard to the interior of the building, it is understood to be the intention of the trustees to have it include a hall and a gymnasium, besides large rooms for the library and reading-room. The property will come into the possession of the association January 6, but nothing will be done toward the new structure within a year, the trustees not caring to sell the old building at present.

**PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY.**—Mr. W. E. Foster now makes a regular practice of supplying, at the Providence Public Library, by means of a lithogram, carefully minute references to books in connection with individual lectures delivered in Providence. The shelf numbers in that library are given, and references are made to the Brown University, Providence Athenæum, and Boston Athenæum libraries, when the first-named does not contain the book. Mr. Foster also now furnishes the public school teachers, from time to time, with lists of "historical references, primarily for the teacher's use, placing before him a general view of the topic as a whole, and enabling him, as his own judgment may dictate, to assign to members of the class specific questions, whose answers will require the consultation of these works;" and, also, "selected readings, taken mostly from standard writers, with a view not merely of increasing the pupil's interest in the subject, but of developing an interest in the work from which the selection is taken."

**PROVIDENCE ATHENÆUM.**—The Providence Press congratulates this library on having secured the services of Daniel Beckwith as its librarian. Mr. Beckwith, it adds, is about thirty years old; he graduated at Brown University in the class of 1870, devoted several years to the study of engineering, residing for some time abroad. Upon his return he decided to devote his life to the profession of scientific and practical bibliography, and served his apprenticeship in the library of Brown University. Unlike the older set of librarians Mr.

Beckwith is, like Mr. Foster, of the Public Library, in close sympathy with modern progress in the management of books and libraries for the people.

**GREENFIELD (Mass.).**—The library has been presented with twenty volumes of the theological works of Emanuel Swedenborg by the general convention of the church of New Jerusalem, and has also received from the Unitarian association forty volumes, including the works of Channing, Ware, and Martineau.

**NORTH EASTON (Mass.).**—The Ames Library is nearly ready for public use. \$10,000 was appropriated to books, and \$40,000 to building and grounds, from the bequest of Hon. Oliver Ames, one of the well-known firm of the Ames Man'f'g Co.

THE library of the Rev. Dr. Cutting is ultimately to go to the University at Rochester, and a first installment, of 150 volumes, has already been forwarded to its destination.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

**PROPOSED SUNDAY OPENING OF THE GUILD-HALL LIBRARY.**—The proposal to open the Guildhall Library, London, on Sundays, has called out a memorial from the Working Men's Lord's Day Rest Association against the Sunday opening, signed by Lord Shaftesbury (the president), the Bishop of London, Sir J. H. Kennaway, M. P., Sir Charles Reed, Mr. Samuel Morley, M. P., Mr. Spurgeon, and 88 others, including Bishops, members of Parliament, and the leaders of religious bodies, which has been sent to the members of the Common Council. The memorial states that the Sunday opening of libraries cannot be carried out without the Sunday employment of the attendants, and if the Sunday closing principle be broken down in favor of libraries it will be broken down for the opening of numerous other places of amusement and recreation throughout the country. If, it adds, the libraries be opened on Sundays for those who find pleasure in them, why should the aquariums, the concert-rooms, and the operas be closed against those who find pleasure in these? The arguments for opening libraries on Sunday are equally strong for the opening of numerous other places of amusement, and if it be right for men to work in a public library on Sundays it cannot be wrong for them to work in a shop or factory on Sundays. The religious character of the Sunday is what more than anything else preserves it as a day of rest from labor, and if the religious observance of the day be broken down an immense impetus will be given to secular work and amusements on the day of rest. Proposals to open the free libra-



ries on Sundays, it notes, have been refused in Leeds, Bolton, Salford, Leicester, Nottingham, and other places.

PLYMOUTH.—New rooms were inaugurated on August 29, at the Free Library, as a reference library and a reading-room. The library is very prosperous, the average issue being over 400, with a stock of 9000 v. for issue and 1600 for reference. One of the speakers said that "all books of a trashy or sensational nature were excluded; the light reading in the library was instructive, and invariably created a desire for the reading of a better and higher class of books." Another said that "within a very recent period the issue of theological and physiological books had doubled, and of scientific works trebled, whilst the issue of novels had decreased."

BIRMINGHAM "OLD LIBRARY."—The Birmingham Library, known as the "Old Library," has existed one hundred years, and its centenary was to be celebrated by a public dinner on the 29th of November, the Rev. H. W. Crosskey, the president, in the chair. The Birmingham Library is one of the oldest subscription libraries in Great Britain, and has always maintained a high state of efficiency. It now contains 50,000 volumes, with a yearly circulation of 100,000. Mr. Samuel Timmins was to prepare 'A Sketch of the History of the Library' for the occasion.

A LENDING library of 20,000 volumes is being added to the Free Library at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

AT a recent meeting at Blackpool, in North Lancashire, it was resolved that the Free Library Act should be adopted.

THE Free Library at Clitheroe reports satisfactory progress. The weekly issue of books, though the institution is in its infancy, averages about three hundred.

THE Atkinson Free Public Library at Southport reports 8432 v., of which 1281 have been presented. The news-room is constantly crowded, readers being estimated at 440 daily.

THE borough engineer of Liverpool has reported for adoption the electric light in the new Picton reading-room. It is calculated that the illuminating power will be greater than gas; the cost less.

#### FRANCE.

PARIS.—A new municipal library has been opened at the *mairie* of Passy. It is to open twice a week, from 12 to 4, and 3 times a week, from 8 to 10 P. M. There are about 1300 v. for circulation, and 9,500 for consultation in the library, the latter

mostly the legacy of Edelstand du Meril. The reference collection is especially rich in romances of chivalry and the mysteries of the middle ages.

JULES VERNE has been assisted in his new work on "The Exploration of the World," by M. Gabriel Marcel, of the Bibliothèque Nationale.

THE HISTORICAL LIBRARY of the town of Paris was opened to the public from October 1. The hours are from 10 to 4 in winter, and from 11 to 5 in summer.

THE library of the Learned Societies is now in course of removal from the Ministry of Public Instruction to the Institute. It contains about 15,000 volumes of the *Proceedings* of all the learned societies of France and the colonies.

By order of M. Ferry, candidates for the librarianships in the French University must have two years' probation and pass successfully a professional examination, which is to consist of a dissertation in French on a given subject of bibliography, and the classification of 15 works treating of different matters, and belonging to several periods of the history of the art of printing.

#### GERMANY.

AHLBECK (*Pomerania*).—"There is a town library of 40 v., although many inhabitants scarcely see a book after leaving school. We listened the other day to an animated discussion by a dozen fishermen whether the world went round the sun or vice versa—a question on which opinion was about equally divided. The people are remarkably sober, industrious, honest, moral, and contented, and without exception Protestants."—Letter in the *Nation*, Oct. 30.

PROF. GNEIST has presented the Berlin Public Library Fund with the proceeds of his recent scientific lectures.

#### RUSSIA.

RUSSIAN GEOGRAPHICAL LIB.—The destruction of the Geographical Society Library at Irkutsk is a serious misfortune. It contained a great variety of works about Siberia, some of them very rare, a number of books and mss. on Buddhism, numerous publications of foreign scientific societies (European, Asiatic, and American), and a large assortment of works on the physical scenes and natural history. This library—the only one in Central Asia—has rendered great services in the development of scientific knowledge, and in giving a scientific character to the geographical exploration of Siberia. Many scientific men when staying in Irkutsk have made large use of the library,



among others, Prof. Bastian. The fire is said to have destroyed all the libraries in the place. Many of the works in the library of G. Vagin were unique.

RUSSIAN university libraries, excepting St. Petersburg and Moscow, contain: *Warsaw*, 160,183 in 294,759 v., 6104 periodicals and 1279 mss. The Students' Reading-Room has 8814 v. *Dorpat*, 80,199 works in 123,183 v., 452 periods. in 11,201 v., 726 mss., 60,240 dissertations. The meteorological observatory, the mineralogical cabinet, and the astronomical observatory have each their own library. *Kief*, 80,197 works in 135,213 v., Students' Library, 7774 works in 15,230 v. and 99 periods. *University of New Russia*, 38,734 works in 66,980 v., 711 periods., the Students' Library has 6310 v. and 196 periods. —*Polybiblion*, quoting *L'indicateur de la presse*.

## AUSTRALIA.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, SYDNEY, N. S. W.—The Report for the year 1878 has recently been issued. The Library had been increased by 4,390 volumes, of which 2,200 have been added to the Reference Library, and 2,190 to the Lending Branch. The total number of volumes now in the Library is 37,143.

THE University of Pennsylvania has conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws upon Sir Redmond Barry, Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, President of the Public Library of Victoria, Chief Justice of that Colony, etc. Sir Redmond was in this country at the time of the Philadelphia Exhibition, and was a member of the Conference of Librarians, which met in London in 1877. The Public Library of Victoria (Melbourne) has now about 100,000 v. and pamphlets, and it serves about 250,000 readers a year. It has a new short-title general catalogue now passing through the press, embracing 150,000 entries in all.

## AFRICA.

SIR BARTLE FRERE has desired Professor Max Müller and Professor Sayce to select a qualified successor to the late Dr. Bleek as philologist of the Cape Colony and custodian of the Grey Library. The salary for the two places will be £500 a year.

ERRATA.—In the second Conference issue (title-page), Prof. W. T. Atkinson should read Prof. W. P. Atkinson, and on p. 367, the words Young Men's Christian Association should of course read Young Men's Christian Union. It was to the latter and not to the former body that the Association was indebted.

## PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

THE publisher, in announcing his intention to continue the LIBRARY JOURNAL through 1880, begs leave to state that this is done in the hope that during the year the efforts of the friends of library progress will be actively exerted in its behalf. The JOURNAL, which has had to encounter more than the usual difficulties in building up new class journals, is easily within the possibility of solid success; its chief obstacle is the indifference of the small libraries whom it seeks to enroll, to library progress and its exponent, on the ground that they cannot afford luxuries, and the continued difficulty of even the more energetic librarians in preventing their directors from cutting off the JOURNAL because it is not particularly desired by the reading-room public. If those who know the value of the progress represented by the JOURNAL, to the small libraries above all others, will take pains to get that into the heads of the trustees of the smaller libraries within their range, the final success of the JOURNAL is a fixed fact.

It has not been found practicable to continue *The Title-slip registry*, originally started as a supplement to the JOURNAL, but afterwards made an independent periodical, without the support of those subscribers to the JOURNAL to whom it has been sent under the same subscription price with the JOURNAL. It is intended, however, to continue the publication under the title of *The Book registry*, and to put it at 25 cts. a copy, so that even the smallest library may subscribe for it. It will thus become in these a pioneer, opening the way for the LIBRARY JOURNAL and for A. L. A. work in general. Subscribers who have hitherto received it with the JOURNAL are therefore requested to enclose their 25 cts., or rather the \$1.25 which supplies the five copies needed for author-title- and subject-catalogue, and desk- and reading-room use, and to use their best efforts to obtain other subscribers among the patrons of their library, to whom it will be a great help. It will hereafter be issued promptly the first week in each month, and special terms are offered to libraries which will take editions of 100 for circulation or sale among their patrons. In many small libraries enough such annotated lists could easily be sold for 3 or 5 cents each to cover their cost, the subscription to the LIBRARY JOURNAL and a profit besides.

It is particularly desired that friends of the JOURNAL will send to the publisher, names of book collectors and other private persons who might be interested in it.

## THE AMERICAN CATALOGUE.

THE AMERICAN CATALOGUE, of which part four, just issued, concludes the first volume, is intended to serve as a guide to all books in print and for sale in the American market on July 1, 1876,—the latest date to which it was possible to bring up the work. The system will be continued by the publication of supplements, at regular intervals of five or ten years, which will include also corrections and works omitted in the previous volumes.

The first volume, now completed, contains approximately seventy thousand entries, representing over nine hundred publishers, among which are a large number of the smaller houses and publication societies, of whose books it has hitherto been almost impossible to keep track. It includes the *full-title* entry (with reasonable condensation) under the name of *author*, and a briefer entry under *title* of such books as are known chiefly by their titles or whose titles are characteristic (including all works of fiction). Its chief use is as a finding-list for books of which either the author or the title is known, or for the works of any given writer.

The second volume (the compilation of which is now begun) is designed as a guide to books obtainable in any particular branch of knowledge or literature on which information is sought. Its chief use is as a finding-list for books on any given topic. The arrangement will be by specific *subject, i. e.*, works will be entered (including short title, price and publisher) directly under the topic upon which they are written, not grouped together under the including class. Books upon the horse, for example, will go under Horse (not under Zoology), those upon the cultivation of the rose under Rose (not under Botany), and those upon the manufacture or uses of iron under Iron (not under Metals),—placing under Zoology, Botany, and Metals only the works that discuss those subjects generally. Similarly, lives, instead of being gathered together under Biography, will be entered under the name of the person whose life is written; histories, travels, under place or country described; the arts, the sciences, amusements, branches of industry, under their individual names, reserving the collective headings for general treatises or collective works. These subjects will be arranged alphabetically, so that one consulting the Catalogue need not be in doubt under what heading to look or in what part of the Catalogue it is to be found, but can turn at once in its alphabetical order to the subject he has in mind, where will be found a list of all books upon that subject, yet (from this specific arrangement) not too long for easy consultation. Numerous cross-references will direct from a general heading to the individual entries (as from Political Economy to Commerce, Finance, Labor, Property, Wages, etc.), and will connect similar subjects (as Health, Hygiene and Sanitary). Thus the student or specialist will not only find what has appeared in his own immediate field of study, but will be guided to kindred topics which are so often of service in illustrating and supplementing one another.

It will thus be seen that the second volume is almost entirely distinct from the first, and can be profitably used independently of that. While the one is chiefly useful to the bookseller in filling orders, the other will be still more useful in stimulating and securing orders. It will enable him to answer the questions so frequently asked and now almost impossible of answer, as to what books can be had on any given subject, and to furnish at once such full information *as will secure orders on the spot*. The librarian or student may learn from it the deficiencies of his own collection or specialty, and how that deficiency can best be supplied. To all who have the handling of many books it will serve as an index to the current works in the various fields of science and thought.

The compilation and printing of the second volume, it is thought, can be completed within a year, so that the complete work may be in the hands of subscribers by the fall of 1880.

The subscription price for the two volumes is \$25,—\$5 to be paid on entering the subscription, \$10 on the delivery of the first volume, and \$10 for the second, on its delivery. As more than two-thirds of the edition printed have been already taken, and no plates made, copies cannot be guaranteed at the subscription price except to those subscribing immediately.

The reception of the first volume has been so gratifying that it is hoped the second volume, from its greater usefulness, will be no less cordially received.

*A sheet containing sample pages of the first volume of the Catalogue and of the Publishers' Directory will be mailed free to any address, and those interested in the work are requested to forward lists of possible subscribers.*

Address subscriptions, requests for sample pages, and business correspondence, to

A. C. ARMSTRONG & SON, Publishers, 714 Broadway, New York

Editorial correspondence should be addressed to

F. LEYPOLDT, 13 & 15 Park Row, New York.

## EXCELLENT NEW BOOKS.

### *Fireside Edition of Emerson.*

Including the works contained in the "Little Classic" edition of the writings of RALPH WALDO EMERSON, and printed from the same beautiful plates, on tinted and highly calendered paper, with wide margin. *Sold only in sets.* 5 vols., 16mo, \$10.00; half calf, \$20.00; tree calf, \$25.00.

This is a very compact, tasteful, and desirable edition of Mr. Emerson's works; and both in the sterling character of its contents and in its attractive style, it is a Holiday Gift of remarkable interest.

### *Fireside Edition of Hawthorne.*

The complete works of NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE. Uniform with the Fireside Edition of Emerson. In 12 volumes, 16mo, each illustrated with two fine vignettes. *Sold only in sets.* Cloth, \$20.00; half calf, \$40.00; tree calf, \$50.00.

A remarkable attractive edition of Hawthorne's complete works. It is printed on tinted and calendered paper, and bound in a style similar to that of the Fireside Emerson, one of the best specimens of book-making skill the Riverside Press has produced. Each volume has two vignette illustrations of picturesque or memorable scenes described in the book. This is not merely a beautiful set of books; they contain not a little of the best that America has yet contributed to the world's finest literature.

### *The Little Classics—Holiday Edition.*

A new edition of the original Little Classics. Uniform with the "Riverside Classics." *Sold only in sets.* 8 vols., 16mo, \$12.00; half calf, \$24.00; tree calf, \$36.00.

A very desirable edition of this widely popular series of Short Stories, Sketches, and Poems.

### *The Poetical Works of Geoffrey Chaucer.*

Edited, with a memoir, by ARTHUR GILMAN. *Riverside Edition.* Uniform with and completing the Riverside British Poets. With Portrait and full Index. 3 vols., crown 8vo, \$5.25.

The ripest scholarship on this subject has been drawn upon to put the reader in full possession of Chaucer's spirit, character, and poetic work. The student of the earliest of our English poets will find in these volumes everything needful for a comprehension of a body of poetry which is rich in many of the finest qualities of English genius.—*The Christian Union.*

### *The Poetical Works of Bayard Taylor.*

*New Household Edition*, uniform with the Household Edition of Longfellow, Whittier, etc. Complete in one volume. 12mo, \$2.00; half calf, \$4.00; morocco, or tree calf, \$5.00.

This edition comprises all that is included in Mr. Taylor's "Poems," also Poems of the Orient, Poems of Home and Travel, The Poet's Journal, The Picture of St. John, Lars, Home Pastorals, Ballads, and Lyrics.

### *Illustrated Library Editions.*

#### *Dickens's Complete Works.*

With introductions, biographical and historical, by E. P. WHIPPLE. Printed on fine paper, and containing over 550 fine illustrations. Handsomely bound. 29 volumes. Price, in cloth, \$1.50 a volume; the set, \$43.50; half calf, \$100.00.

#### *The Waverly Novels.*

Carefully edited. Beautifully illustrated with 48 engravings on steel. With glossary and a very full index of characters. Finely printed, handsomely bound. 25 volumes. Price, in cloth, \$1.00 a volume; the set, \$25.00; half calf, \$62.50.

### *Globe Editions.*

#### *Dickens's Works.*

In 15 volumes, with 55 illustrations. \$1.00 a volume; \$15.00 the set; half calf, \$37.50; half russia, \$45.00.

#### *The Waverly Novels.*

With 48 steel plates, including a portrait of SCOTT. *Sold only in sets.* 13 volumes, 16mo, \$13.00; half calf, \$32.50.

#### *The Works of James Fenimore Cooper.*

*Sold only in sets.* 16 volumes, 16mo, \$16.00; half calf, \$40.00.

These *Globe Editions* are printed from large type, on good paper, and are attractively bound, making remarkably good cheap editions of these standard novels.

\*.\* For sale by all booksellers. Sent, postpaid, on receipt of the price by the Publishers,

HOUGHTON, OSGOOD & CO., BOSTON.

## D. APPLETON &amp; CO.

HAVE JUST PUBLISHED:

I.

*The World's Paradises;*

OR, SKETCHES OF LIFE, SCENERY, AND CLIMATE, IN NOTED SANITARIA. By S. G. W. BENJAMIN. Forming No. 44 of Appletons' "New Handy-Volume Series." Paper, 30 cents.

II.

*The Alpenstock:*

A BOOK ABOUT THE ALPS AND ALPINE ADVENTURE. Edited by WM. H. RIDING, author of "A-Saddle in the Wild West." Forming No. 45 of Appletons' "New Handy-Volume Series." Paper, 30 cents.

III.

*Comedies for Amateur Acting.*

Edited, with a Prefatory Note on Private Theatricals, by J. BRANDER MATTHEWS. Forming No. 46 of Appletons' "New Handy-Volume Series." Paper cover, 30 cents.

The comedies in this volume are adapted from the French, and were selected specially for their fitness for parlor performance.

IV.

*A Class-Book History of England.*

Illustrated with numerous Wood-cuts and Historical Maps. Compiled for Pupils preparing for the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations, and for the Higher Classes of Elementary Schools. By the Rev. DAVID MORRIS, Classical Master in Liverpool College. First American from fifteenth English edition. One vol., 12mo. Cloth, price, \$1.25.

V.

*The English Language,*

AND ITS EARLY LITERATURE. By J. H. GILMORE, A. M., Professor of Logic, Rhetoric, and English, in the University of Rochester. One vol., 12mo. Cloth, price, 60 cents.

For sale by all booksellers: or any work sent post-paid to any address in the United States, on receipt of price.

D. APPLETON & CO., PUBLISHERS, 549 & 551 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Press of FRANCIS HART & CO.

VI.

NEW ILLUSTRATED COOPER.

*The Novels of J. Fenimore Cooper.*

With 64 Engravings on Steel, from Drawings by F. O. C. DARLEY. Complete in 16 volumes. Price for the complete set, \$16.00.

\* This edition of the Novels of Cooper is the cheapest ever offered to the public. It contains the entire series of novels, two being bound in each volume; and the series of steel plates, from drawings by F. O. C. Darley, originally engraved for the finer editions, at a great cost, which are conceded to be the best work on steel ever produced in America.

VII.

*Macaulay's Essays.*

ESSAYS CRITICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS. By Lord MACAULAY. In two vols., 8vo. Cloth, price, \$2.50.

This is a remarkably cheap edition of Macaulay's Essays. It is printed in good style, and handsomely bound.

VIII.

*Solar Light and Heat:*

THE SOURCE AND THE SUPPLY. Gravitation: with Explanations of Planetary and Molecular Forces. By ZACHARIAH ALLEN, LL.D. With illustrations. One vol., 8vo. Cloth, price, \$1.50.

IX.

*Memoirs of Mme. de Rémusat.*

1802-1808. With a Preface and Notes by her Grandson, PAUL DE RÉMUSAT, Senator. Translated from the French by Mrs. CASHEL HOEY and JOHN LILLIE. In three volumes. Volume I. now ready. 8vo. Paper, price, 50 cents.

Madame de Rémusat was maid of honor to Josephine from 1802 to 1808, and these memoirs are derived from a diary which, though afterward destroyed, yet formed the foundation of the present work, which was carefully guarded by her son, and is now published by her grandson. The value of the memoirs rests on the general pictures which they give of the character of Napoleon, his relatives, and his favorites, and of the life of the Court.

